

Hafa Adai!

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75¢



POLL RESULTS

Did you come up with a New Year's resolution this year?

Yes	36
No	47

Sunday, January 13, 2013

INSIDE

NATION



Lance Armstrong said he will answer Oprah Winfrey "honestly."

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ASIA



Scientists capture images of a giant squid in the ocean for the first time.

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LIFE & STYLE



A 23-year-old blonde from Brooklyn, N.Y., wins the Miss America crown.

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WITH OAG DECLARING \$190M PPA 'VOID'

RFP for power plant being drafted

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Development LLC and other investors could have another shot at building a new—or refurbish the existing—power plant on Saipan following Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' announcement Friday that a request for proposal is being drafted for a 40-megawatt base load power production. This comes days after the Office of the Attorney General declared void and unenforceable a sole-source \$190.8 million power purchase agreement with SDLLC.

See RFP on Page 4

» Lawmakers caution administration

Child care eligibility rules eased for NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The federal government has adjusted the income level for child care assistance eligibility, allowing CNMI families to receive the aid despite the latest 50-cent minimum wage increase. When the CNMI's minimum wage increased to \$5.55 an hour on Oct. 1, many lost their child care aid.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan

(Ind-MP) made the announcement during the weekend, and provided yesterday a copy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Dec. 31, 2012, letter to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.

The two-page letter from DHHS Office of Child Care Director Shannon L. Rudisill notified Faisao of DHHS' approval of the CNMI's Child Care and

See CHILD on Page 4

Cop kills self after shooting girlfriend

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A police officer died when he allegedly shot himself after shooting his girlfriend near a bar along Beach Road, Garapan early yesterday morning.

Police officer Josef "Bodig" Deleon Guerrero, 24, was pronounced dead at 2:06am by Dr. Francois Classenes due to a gunshot wound to the head.

The girlfriend was shot in the right shoulder. She was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of the Commonwealth Health Center but is now in stable condition, according to police

See COP on Page 4



'Impeachment resolution to be prefiled after oath-taking'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

All roads lead to Capital Hill this morning as the 18th House of Representatives and Senate will separately hold their inaugural sessions that may also see the possible prefiling of a new House resolu-

tion impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. Fitial will be attending the Senate's organizational session at 10am, the Senate leadership confirmed yesterday.

Incoming House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said a new impeachment resolution won't be introduced during this morning's organizational session.

He, however, said it could be pre-filed after the session

RELATED NEWS

► Hocog is Senate floor leader; Camacho is House minority leader.

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and on the same day, or the next few days. Deleon Guerrero is the main author of the impeachment resolution that the previous Fitial-aligned leadership shot down last year.

Another House session may be called later this week, wherein the impeachment

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Children's clinic, pharmacy now open daily. PAGE 3
Kagman High School burglarized. PAGE 5

Local

Hocog is Senate floor leader; Camacho is House minority leader

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Rota senatorial candidate and former representative Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) will be the new Senate floor leader, while former floor leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) will be the new House minority leader when the 18th Senate and House of Representatives take their oath today on Capital Hill, lawmakers confirmed yesterday.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) was supposed to be the new Senate floor leader but because he is in detention pending his trial on charges of attempting to smuggle endangered fruit bats, the leadership chose Hocog instead.

Ayuyu, who is also facing new charges of obstruction of justice, tampering with witnesses, and attempting to destroy evidence, will miss today's inaugural session.

Camacho, meanwhile, was selected leader of the four-member House minority bloc during their meeting on Saturday. Three of the minority bloc members are under Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Republican Party, which saw its slate almost wiped out during the Nov. 6

midterm elections. The fourth one is an independent.

"We met [Saturday] and as a consensus, we all agreed I would be the minority leader," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*. "As a minority bloc, it will be our duty to ensure and present both sides of any particular issue. We will represent the concerns of the people and what is best even if it may not be the most popular position."

Camacho also thanked his colleagues "for instilling their confidence in me."

"And I shall represent their concerns to the best of my ability," he added.

Members of the new majority said they would work with the minority bloc to pass needed legislation based on the bills' merit, whether they are authored by a member of the leadership or the minority.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), also a member of the new minority bloc, separately confirmed yesterday the results of Saturday's meeting.

"It was through consensual voting—everyone agreeing for Rep. Camacho to be the minority leader. I look forward to [Monday's] inauguration as it would provide an opportunity for each member to present

goals or objectives that he or she hopes to accomplish during the 18th Legislature," she said.

Besides Camacho and Santos, both re-elected for a second term, the two other House minority members are former vice speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan) and newcomer Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan).

With only four members

of the Fitial-aligned minority bloc, a soon-to-be introduced resolution impeaching the governor is expected to easily pass the House, whose 16-member supermajority includes the authors of the original impeachment resolution in 2012. Only 14 "yes" votes in the House are needed to impeach Fitial. At least six "yes" votes in the nine-

member Senate are needed to convict him.

In the 17th House, the governor-aligned majority easily blocked the impeachment resolution authored by the minority bloc led by now Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan). A silent majority of the voters in the Nov. 6 midterm polls voted out of office most of those who

did not support the impeachment resolution.

Incoming Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and incoming Sen. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) separately confirmed yesterday the selection of Hocog as floor leader.

All other Senate and House leadership positions were known since last year.

HPV vaccine for boys to be made available soon



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Anti-cancer advocates and community partners join Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos after the signing of the proclamation designating January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month on Friday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Efforts are being undertaken by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health Division to prevent cervical cancer in the CNMI, with the human papilloma virus vaccination for boys in the Commonwealth to be made available soon.

"So this is not just a woman's issue—it's everyone's issue," said Public Health director Roxanne Diaz on Friday after Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed the proclamation designating January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

Cervical cancer generally develops slowly but can be prevented and cured through early screening and treatment of pre-

cancerous conditions.

HPV causes up to 70 percent of cervical cancer, including anal and oral cancers, thus the need for a vaccine as part of the Commonwealth's prevention efforts, according to Diaz.

She said that about 91 percent of young female students in the Public School System have been given the HPV vaccine, and their office is working hard to get the young female population vaccinated.

With the male HPV vaccine expected soon, Diaz said they will be targeting young boys at PSS.

"We want to make sure that our young girls and boys are vaccinated before they're exposed, so I encourage our parents to sign the consent forms if

they see it so we can protect our boys and girls," she said.

Diaz noted how the community cannot lose sight of the statistics revealing the number of those affected by cervical cancer, urging the public not just to have one day but an everyday awareness of this fatal disease.

"These data are not just numbers. They're actual people, and many of them are family members," she explained.

Inos recognized Public Health for its efforts in disseminating information on preventive screening and treatment of cervical cancer.

"Let's continue to do what we can to prevent folks from getting infected with this serious illness," he added.

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DUE TO HIGH DEMAND, HHS RECOMMENDATION:

Children's clinic, inpatient pharmacy now open daily

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

From being open just twice or

PSS pins hopes on new Legislature

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., is pinning her hopes on the incoming 18th CNMI Legislature and State Board of Education to decide the fate of public schools in the Commonwealth.

Both new lawmakers and new members of the Education Board will be sworn in today.

Sablan admitted being disappointed with some lawmakers in the previous Legislature, whom she accused of failing the Public School System by not giving it a realistic budget, putting the system's survival at risk.

The 17th Legislature allocated only \$30 million for all schools' operation this fiscal year.

"I did my best to justify the needs of the Public School System and I was heard by a few, but



Sablan

thrice a week, the Commonwealth Health Center's children's clinic and the inpatient pharmacy will now go back to

their regular schedules to meet the high demand for these sections' services.

Esther Muña, the Com-

not all. My greatest disappointment is for those lawmakers who never supported the PSS' appropriation bill [that sought \$33 million for fiscal year 2013]," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* Friday.

She asked new legislators, when working on the system's next budget, to be more visible in schools and classrooms to see the conditions of students and be able to understand how PSS operates on a daily basis.

This early, Sablan is pleading with new lawmakers not to cut the schools' budget and look for ways on how they can better assist students.

"We need to have a good and stable budget for our school system. PSS needs at least \$35 million to be at survival mode. We do ask them to please visit our schools so they can understand our current situation, and see the difficulty and challenges we have

in the classrooms," she said.

Sablan said she will also ask lawmakers to find Capital Improvement Project funds for school repairs and renovations.

Sablan is confident in the capability and willingness of incoming Board of Education member Janice Tenorio to help the system.

"I am very happy with the outcome of the election [for BOE] and I hope the new composition of the board will continue to listen to us and support the initiatives that we will be bringing forward to the board's table," she said.

Among these initiatives, she revealed, is the pre-school to 16 program, and the teachers and school administrators' certifications.

The move to go back to regular hours for both units was prompted after personnel of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services who are currently working with CHC found out that the two sections were not meeting the high demand for services due to limited operational hours.

Muña said the same concern was raised by a Medicare team during its survey visit in the latter part of 2012. Medicare warned CHC that this must be rectified to maintain CHC's condition of participation with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The goal, according to CEO Juan N. Babauta, is to provide the maximum level of pediatric service of up to 60 patients daily—both walk-ins and by appointment.

"We have demand for pediatric [service] and we have people coming in for pediatric attention that we are not meeting. We have four pediatricians... and there's no reason we cannot provide that care now," said Babauta.

"We have the capability [to open daily] and we wanted to improve the access and make sure that prevention and primary care is addressed before patients get sick. From two to three times weekly, pediatric service will now be open five days each week," she said, adding that the hospital is working on hiring one more pediatrician

and a physician's assistant for the children's clinic.

When asked why the corporation failed to open the clinic regularly despite having four pediatricians in the past, Muña cited "uncertainties" in the doctors' contracts and schedule, including whether they will stay on or not. "We wanted to make sure we have a stable schedule," she added.

Meantime, Babauta said the inpatient pharmacy is now staffed seven days a week since Jan. 7, which includes weekend coverage beginning Jan. 12, 2013. Service hours is between 7am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, and 8am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday.

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Prayer † to the HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. AMEN.

Say this prayer for three days without mentioning the favor you are asking for. After the third day, the wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this prayer as soon as your favor has been granted.

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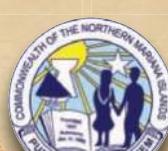
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STUDENTS FIRST

IMPEACHMENT

From Page 1

ment resolution could be formally introduced and a Special Committee on Impeachment could be appointed.

Incoming Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) separately said the leadership will fulfill the mandate of voters that almost wiped out candidates and incumbents aligned with the governor.

The incoming House leadership said that removing Fitial is just one of their priorities, along with addressing the economy, healthcare, the pension system and utilities services.

At least 14 "yes" votes in the 20-member House are needed to impeach the governor. The new House leadership led by the movers of the impeachment resolution has 16 members. Only four members are aligned with the governor.

In the nine-member Senate, six "yes" votes are needed to convict the governor.

Incoming Senate President Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian) said he was advised that the governor will be attending the Senate's inaugural session today.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, is likely to attend the House's organization session.

COP

From Page 1

detective Jeffrey Olopai of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau.

The shooting happened at the parking lot of Gree Air Conditioning adjacent to the True North Bar and Grill, which is owned by acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said that police officers responded to gunshots fired at the parking lot of Gree Air Conditioning at 1:52am.

Upon arrival, police found a man and a woman who were both lying on the ground, Tarkong said.

The officers immediately identified

the male as then off duty officer Deleon Guerrero. Deleon Guerrero's service handgun was found next to his body. He had a gunshot wound in the head and was bleeding profusely.

The female was identified as Deleon Guerrero's girlfriend, who is in her early 20's. *Saipan Tribune* chose not to publish her name at this time as police have yet to officially release her identity.

Tarkong said the girlfriend was conscious and spoke to responding police officers and emergency medical technicians.

Tarkong said the girlfriend had a bullet entry and exit wound on the right shoulder.

Deleon Guerrero and the girl were then transported to the CHC emergency room.

Tarkong did not mention in the re-

port whether Deleon Guerrero and his girlfriend had just come from the True North Bar and Grill.

"The investigation is ongoing," he said.

At 4pm yesterday, about 10 detectives led by detective Olopai were seen talking to a witness in the parking lot where the shooting allegedly occurred.

Acting DPS commissioner Ogomoro was seen yesterday afternoon talking to some people inside the True North Bar and Grill. He later came out and talked to Olopai.

When asked if Deleon Guerrero and his girlfriend or one of them came from the True North Bar and Grill before the shooting, Ogomoro said the two "came from somewhere else."

Unconfirmed reports state that a domestic dispute triggered the shooting.

say that 'it [existing power plant] has limited life already, we want to come up with a new power plant and so forth. We would do it on this side.' So the proposer has got to do a lot of legwork. ... The field is wide open. We're basically saying we need a 40MW base power. If you're interested, let us know of your interest and tell us how you want to proceed with it," Inos said.

The administration is hoping to finalize the RFP by the end of the month.

Inos said SDLLC can participate if it wants to.

"We're not barring anybody from participation," he added.

He also said the burden is on the administration to review the proposal, which should include an economic analysis as to whether or not the proposal is economically feasible.

It could also be a build-operate-transfer type of undertaking.

"There is no risk for the CNMI. We're going to go out and we're going to ask for some BOT operation... or any of that combination. But it's really power production and when we ask for a proposal...the proposer will come back and say, 'we'll do this and we'll take care of fuel and something like that.' Some folks would say 'no, we're going to construct it at our cost, you have to pay us so much, but fuel is your responsibility,'" he added.

Dela Cruz said he would reserve fur-

ther comments until he sees the RFP "given the fact that CUC made statements with regards to the longevity of the present engines at the power plant."

"They stated it can take anywhere from seven to 10 years. If we are to put out an RFP now for diesel power plant, then what will we be looking at in terms of alternative energy?" he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

He hopes "CUC plays a part in the drafting of this RFP."

"And at this point in time, I cannot really comment on such an RFP because I don't have a clear picture as to the intent of the RFP, whether it is baseload diesel or baseload diesel and alternative energy, or just alternative energy," Dela Cruz added.

Deleon Guerrero raised two more points of consideration.

"One is the issue of the PPA that has just been considered null and void. It has to be resolved. I think from what I've been reading in the paper, from the contractor standpoint, they haven't decided yet whether they are going to sue or what. I think that has to be resolved before we think of this next step. Somehow that has to be clear. And as a matter of fact, they may sue whoever gets the contract if they feel that they have been deprived, wronged," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The second issue is that the administration has to look at existing public laws.

Fitial's Rota senatorial candidate, Victor Hocog (R-Rota), will be the new Senate floor leader. Hocog defeated the longest serving lawmaker in the CNMI, outgoing Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and a strong critic of the governor. Fitial campaigned strongly against Manglona on Rota.

Hofsneider said the Senate leadership is hoping for a better Senate-House working relationship.

"We are moving forward, and we're happy with the relationship we have so far established with the new House leadership. We are all here to serve so it's important we all work together to be able to better serve the public," he added.

The new Senate president said the leadership is also "ready to take on the issues" of economy, healthcare, utilities and pension system, among other things.

Incoming Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) echoed this, adding that public safety will also be on the priority list of issues.

"Also, now that we have a new 16-slice CT scan, I would continue to work toward getting new beds for the hospital," Torres added.

Both the incoming Senate president and House speaker said they would

give each member three to five minutes to deliver their messages during the inaugural session, which is expected to pack the Legislature's galleries.

Last week, incoming and incumbent members were busy transferring or moving to their offices, with chairs, shelves and other office equipment crowding the hallways and offices in time for today's oath-taking of the 18th Legislature.

An inaugural Mass for the incoming House and Senate was also held yesterday at Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa officiated by Fr. Ryan Jimenez. The lieutenant governor was present.

The House and Senate leaderships expect a smooth inaugural session today.

Still, the festivities this morning could be eclipsed by the prefilings of the impeachment resolution.

The allegations against the governor are in connection with the temporary release of a federal inmate in January 2010 to give him a massage during the wee hours of the morning in his private residence, failure to remove his former attorney general Edward Buckingham despite violations of federal and local election laws, awarding a no-bid \$190.8 million diesel power purchase agreement to Saipan Development LLC for 25 years, awarding a sole-

source ARRA management contract to a former Cabinet member, failure to timely appoint a chief justice and members of critical boards and commissions, and involvement in the use of armed police and ports police of-

ficers in "escorting" his former AG to the airport, allegedly to shield the AG from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor.

CHILD

From Page 1

Development Fund Plan amendments.

The effective date for these plan amendments is Oct. 30, 2012.

Sablan said DHHS notified his office last week that the income level for eligibility has been raised to \$1,921 for a family of four.

Previously, the threshold was \$1,838 per month, and some families lost the child care help after the minimum wage increase on Oct. 1 lifted their income, he said.

"Day care is expensive. Families earning minimum wage already find it hard to meet the high costs of gas, electricity, food, and other essentials. So it was important to get the eligibility standards adjusted," he said.

Rene Reyes, operations manager at Holy Angel Child Care and Learning Center in Chalan Kanoa, said yesterday that some of their clients became ineligible for the child care aid when the minimum wage became \$5.55 an hour, so DHHS' announcement is "welcome news."

"Now, these families will be eligible again and others will be eligible for the first time. It's a big help to many families in the CNMI," he said.

Reyes cited as an example a family that used to pay only 10 percent or \$30 of the \$300 monthly childcare services cost. That same family was later asked to pay more or the full amount because their minimum wage increased.

The Child Care and Development Fund plan provides subsidies to assist low-income families in obtaining child care so that parents can work or participate in education or training activities.

In fiscal year 2012, the CNMI program received \$1.9 million, Sablan said.

In responding to questions yes-

terday, Sablan said when his office learned from the media in November that renewal applications for federally-funded child care were being rejected due to the increase in minimum wage, they immediately contacted Bob Garcia, the regional program manager with DHHS in San Francisco, California "to find out what could be done to fix this situation."

He said what was required was DCCA, which administers the program locally, to propose an amendment to the income eligibility standards and have DHHS approve that amendment.

"DCCA Secretary Faisao submitted the necessary amendment. It was approved on Dec. 31; and HHS provided the congressional office a copy of the approval letter. In our e-mail communications, Mr. Garcia also provided us with the specific information about the increased income thresholds for eligibility, which we reported in (last) week's e-Kilili newsletter," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Eduardo Belocora, 62, said he hopes his family will also become eligible to receive child care aid for his 2-year-old son with a heart problem.

"Right now we are receiving SSI; I wonder whether we could also get this child care fund. I would ask around. I am the one taking care of my son; my wife goes to work. I would also like to work but at the same time we don't think we would have enough money to send our child to a child care center," Belocora said.

Sablan said his office will continue to monitor this issue.

"We want to see the minimum wage increase. Families need the money. But we don't want families to lose the child care assistance that makes it possible for mothers and fathers to go to work, knowing their children are safe and looked after," the delegate added.

The Fitial administration has yet to comment on DHHS' decision.

RFP

From Page 1

The proposals could be for diesel or alternative power production, or a combination of both, Inos said. All proposals submitted would be thoroughly reviewed, he added.

Some lawmakers, including incoming House speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), are cautioning the Fitial administration against rushing to put out an RFP because of possible legal challenges from SDLLC, which bagged the PPA that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward Buckingham signed in August.

Inos said an RFP is being "refined" to invite proposals from investors "willing to provide baseload power production."

"It would be through the bidding process as opposed to a no-bid contract, that's the purpose of that," Inos told reporters during Friday morning's proclamation signing on Capital Hill.

Inos said he's drafting the RFP.

Dela Cruz hopes the administration will get the input of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on the RFP.

Deleon Guerrero said it would be better if the administration addresses first the issues with SDLLC before

putting out an RFP. He said it's not yet known whether SDLLC will challenge the OAG's declaration on the 25-year PPA.

SDLLC has been taking a view different from Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas' opinion but Inos is hoping that SDLLC "would consider that chapter closed."

The Fitial administration acknowledges that the current power generation system is costly and reaching the end of its cycle.

"We need to think about future expansion but that's what we're going to be asking for—the baseload, which would be essentially at least maybe 40MW... We hope [it] to be modular so that if we need more demand, they can add more," Inos said.

He reiterated that the proposal doesn't necessarily involve diesel.

"We're out on the streets. The jury is out basically. If you have a solution for baseload... it doesn't have to be diesel. Give it to us and we will take a look at it. And if it satisfies the need, is it sustainable, is it affordable? That's what we're going to go for," Inos said.

He said the proposers will have to do a lot of legwork.

"We are going to draw the parameters. They are going to come in and say, 'alright, we propose to just utilize your existing power plant, we'll refurbish.' Or another proposer could come in and

say that 'it [existing power plant] has limited life already, we want to come up with a new power plant and so forth. We would do it on this side.' So the proposer has got to do a lot of legwork. ... The field is wide open. We're basically saying we need a 40MW base power. If you're interested, let us know of your interest and tell us how you want to proceed with it," he said.

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Dela Cruz said he would reserve fur-

ther comments until he sees the RFP "given the fact that CUC made statements with regards to the longevity of the present engines at the power plant."

"They stated it can take anywhere from seven to 10 years. If we are to put out an RFP now for diesel power plant, then what will we be looking at in terms of alternative energy?" he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

He hopes "CUC plays a part in the drafting of this RFP."

"And at this point in time, I cannot really comment on such an RFP because I don't have a clear picture as to the intent of the RFP, whether it is baseload diesel or baseload diesel and alternative energy, or just alternative energy," Dela Cruz added.

Deleon Guerrero raised two more points of consideration.

"One is the issue of the PPA that has just been considered null and void. It has to be resolved. I think from what I've been reading in the paper, from the contractor standpoint, they haven't decided yet whether they are going to sue or what. I think that has to be resolved before we think of this next step. Somehow that has to be clear. And as a matter of fact, they may sue whoever gets the contract if they feel that they have been deprived, wronged," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The second issue is that the administration has to look at existing public laws.

"We have already set direction, what our priorities are for energy. That's spelled out in public laws, we have several. One that says we're going to be [producing alternative energy by a certain percentage] by a certain date. The other one says we're going to move toward an RFP for alternative energy. These public laws have to be taken into consideration in this decision-making process," the incoming speaker said.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan earlier said that the Fitial administration expects the OAG to communicate the AG's legal opinion to SDLLC that the power purchase agreement is void.

In his opinion, San Nicolas said Fitial is not liable for any cause of action related to his signing of the PPA with SDLLC as he merely relied on the certification of then attorney general, Edward T. Buckingham, that the agreement was proper as to form and capacity.

San Nicolas, however, determined that Fitial did not have the authority, pursuant to Executive Order 2012-17, to enter into the power purchase agreement with SDLLC.

The governor's signing of this sole-source PPA was among the issues contained in the defeated resolution impeaching him last year. The incoming House leadership has promised to introduce a new resolution to impeach the governor.

'EB-5 visa program is positive, but remains to be seen'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Incoming House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz said the EB-5 Visa Program is encouraging development but it remains to be seen whether it will have any positive impact on the Commonwealth's weak economy.

"It's something that is new to the CNMI. I cross my fingers anytime something positive like this to come out," Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said in an interview with reporters on Thursday.

The lawmaker, however, stated that he will "not jump for joy" just yet because the program's success remains to be seen.

EB-5 Regional Center is a program where foreign nation-

als may invest in the center to obtain lawful permanent residency in the United States or "green cards."

On Wednesday Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced that Triple J's Marianas EB-5 Regional Center LLC is the first of three applicants in the CNMI to be approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Fitial said the program is going to revolutionize the CNMI economy.

Robert "Bob" Jones, principal of Marianas EB-5 Regional Center LLC, said they submitted the Regional Center project of Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club, a 60 to 100-hotel room set to rise in Chalan Kanoa.

Under the EB-5 Visa Program, Dela Cruz said, investors

have to invest a minimum of half a million dollars and hire 10 people for two years.

Dela Cruz said there are a lot of millionaire foreign investors who are also seeking permanent residency in the United States. He said it's just a matter of marketing the CNMI to the appropriate investors and tourists.

Administration bills

As to how the new majority in the incoming 18th House of Representatives will deal with the administration's proposed measures, Dela Cruz said it really does not matter who introduces the measure. If the Fitial administration has good ideas on how to move the Commonwealth forward, the majority is open and will accept them,

Dela Cruz said.

"We're open to look at the measure and if it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth, we will do what is necessary to assist," he said.

Depending on its urgency, Dela Cruz believes that any legislation should be treated as with any other legislation—it should go to a committee for comments from the public, departments, and agencies.

The majority is open minded, he stressed.

In cases of a gubernatorial veto, Dela Cruz said if they feel that the governor's veto

message is not convincing enough, they will override the veto action.

"But if we feel that his veto message has grounds and is credible, of course, why we would we want to override [it]?" he said.

Dela Cruz has high hopes for the incoming House where most of the new members, accord-

ing to him, were elected for a reason—a people's mandate to make changes in government.

"We continue to send a message that even we lost the ballot in the impeachment, we haven't lost the war yet," Dela Cruz said, referring to the impeachment resolution that was defeated by Fitial's allies in the 17th House.

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Kagman High School burglarized

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System lost more precious equipment after Kagman High School fell victim to burglars who walked off with the school library's computer and accessories last week.

KHS principal Alfred Ada confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that one computer and its accessories were stolen Thursday night from the library. The cost of items stolen was estimated at \$10,000, according to Ada.

Ada said the incident was discovered by the school's maintenance personnel at about 7:48am Friday after the staff found the broken shutter glass of the library. The principal was immediately notified of the break-in, which was immediately reported to authorities.

Thursday night's burglary was the first theft incident at

PSS this year and the first in the history of KHS. Ada said that in previous years, break-in attempts at the school were prevented due to the vigilance and active involvement of the community around the school.

Last year, two public schools were also victims of similar incidents. Garapan Elementary lost computers and other equipment worth over \$10,000 in a theft incident in March. William S. Reyes Elementary was also victimized by series of burglaries last year and lost similar equipment in at least three burglaries. Burglars last broke into the campus in August last year.

The inadequate budget for public schools has resulted in a shortfall of security personnel for each and every campus.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, confirmed Friday the burglary incident in KHS and said that the issue is

being investigated by authorities while her leadership continues to look for ways on how to prevent similar incidents from happening in other schools.

To better protect students and PSS property, Ada said the three public schools in Kagman will be sharing their security resources. These include Kagman Elementary, Chacha Oceanview Junior High, and Kagman High School.

Saipan Tribune learned that new security contract for these campuses will be executed immediately.

New lawmakers: SOCA should be said before 18th Legislature

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two new lawmakers believe that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial should have delivered his State of the Commonwealth Address before the 18th Legislature, whose members will be sworn in today, Monday.

Representative-elect Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov.-Saipan) told reporters Thursday that in his personal opinion, it was not appropriate for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to deliver his SOCA to outgoing lawmakers.

"The question is why they're having the session for the *sine die*. What is the purpose of that?" he asked. "We should be the ones receiving that State of the Commonwealth Address so we can categorize what's been relayed, received, and look into it and see what's best for our Commonwealth."

Leon Guerrero will be chairman of the 18th House Judiciary and Government Operations.

Despite a dramatic walk-out by five lawmakers, Fitial delivered his SOCA during the last session of the 17th House of Representatives on Tuesday. In his speech, he acknowledged poor decisions and mistakes and apologized to the people, vowing more transparency in government and presenting a better economic outlook for 2013.

Incoming House speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero led four other lawmakers in walking out of the House's session when the body voted to allow Fitial to deliver his SOCA.

Deleon Guerrero said the governor's address should be delivered before the 18th Legislature or the incoming body and not at the *sine die* of the 17th Legislature.

Representative-elect Antonio Reyes Agulto (Ind.-Saipan) echoed Deleon Guerrero. "That's how I feel it because I think they need to wait for the incoming Legislature," said Agulto, who refused to comment further.



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For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact
the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528.
For the latest news and announcements, follow NMCon
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NMC.Pros

Search is on for second edition of Ms. *Pusong Pinoy*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization is inviting all female teenagers of Filipino descent to join the Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* beauty pageant, which will highlight the group's Valentine commun-

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nity event.

Now on its second year, *Pusong Pinoy* is patterned after UFO's annual signature events that mark special occasions, such as *Pistang Pinoy* in celebration of Philippine Independence Day every June and *Paskong Pinoy* in observance of Christmas in December.

"The event will serve as a venue for UFO members to come together once again in spirit of *bayanahan* [communal effort] and teamwork. We promise that the event will be fun-filled and will feature live entertainment," said Annamae Adaza, president of the umbrella network of Filipino groups in the CNMI.

The pageant is open to women 16 to 20 years old. They will compete in different categories,

including a question-and-answer portion, to win the beauty title and wear the crown.

The pageant will be held anew at the Garapan Fishing Base on Feb. 17. Adaza said the reigning and first title holder, Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* 2012 Angelica Malasarte, is excited to pass on the crown to the next winner.

Docomo Pacific is once again sponsoring their Hearts Day treat to the island community, Adaza said.

The event will also feature food and non-food vendors and live presentations by individual and group performers.

"Vendors and performers who wish to be part of our event are welcome anytime," she said, adding that Bayani Association president Olive Yana is taking the lead in the

planning and preparation for next month's event.

Other major components of the *Pusong Pinoy* festivities include a health screening and the *Panla-*

sang Pinoy cooking competition open to amateur and professional cooks who will be required to prepare a Filipino dish.

According to Adaza, they are

also coordinating with the Philippine Consulate in Guam to schedule their first mobile consular service on that day.

For more information, call or text Yana at 989-9823, treasurer Evelyn Deazeta at 989-3845 or Adaza at 483-5237.

Joella Rosario: A WIA success story

"Thank you for the guidance and support you all have given me in pursuing my online GED with Penn Foster."

These were the warm and humble words of Joella A. Rosario, a former Workforce Investment Agency participant. Rosario stated, "You all have been very instrumental in pushing me hard to finish up the classes I needed to fulfill my dream of completing my high school diploma."

Rosario believes that having worked under the WIA program for a year gave her the opportunity to think and sort things out career-wise. She attests that she would have never had the chance to get the hands-on training needed to further her career goals.

"As a result of the encouragements, I continued with the classes I needed to get my GED, I passed the exams, and received my diploma with a GPA of 3.4," stated Rosario. "I have since transitioned from a WIA participant to a full time employee as an eligibility worker for the Child Care and Development Fund Program. WIA helped me



Joella A. Rosario, a former Workforce Investment Agency participant, is now an eligibility worker for the Child Care and Development Fund Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

in so many ways that I will never stop being thankful for."

Rosario said she able to afford her tuition for online classes she was taking to obtain her high school diploma. To those who may be in the same situation that she was faced with, Rosario encourages them to keep on trying.

"I encourage you to never give up. Education is not about how old you are, it's about what you want to be and do with your life. It is an instrument very unique to a person," said Rosario. "I would like to take this opportunity to also thank the DCCA secretary, my fellow DCCA/CCDF co-workers for being patient and understanding

with me and giving me all the training and support I needed to stand where I am today. I also thank my very supportive family, friends, and most especially to my loving mother, for never giving up on me. Thank you so much! I owe you my life and I love you so much, Mom!"

Penn Foster is accredited for grades 9 through adult by the Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Distance Education and Training Council.

WIA is a federally funded program administered under the Office of the Governor. (*Office of the Governor*)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 13-01 United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

CLERK OF COURT / PART-TIME MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Location: GARAPAN, SAIPAN, MP **FULL-TIME, 4-Year Term**
Compensated at Judicial Salary Plan JSP-16
OPENING: January 7, 2013 CLOSING DATE: January 25, 2013 at 3:30 pm
Position becomes available April 15, 2013.

Position Overview:

This is a position with combined duties located at the U.S. District Court, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. As Clerk of Court, this position is responsible for managing court administrative functions, under direction of the Chief Judge. As Part-Time Magistrate Judge, duties may include: (1) conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the District Judge; and (3) trying and disposing of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. Complete information and list of duties must be picked up from the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court, or downloaded from <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>

Minimum Qualifications:

Candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications for both Clerk of Court and Part-Time Magistrate Judge:

- General and management experience – a minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible administrative experience. At least three of the 10 years experience must have been in a position of management responsibility;
- Be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a United States jurisdiction;
- Have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years;
- Be competent to perform the duties of the office, of good moral character, emotionally stable and mature, committed to equal justice under the law, in good health, patient; courteous, and capable of deliberation and decisiveness when required to act on his or her own reason and judgment;
- Not be related by blood or marriage to a judge of the appointing court, within the degrees specified in 28 U.S.C. § 458;
- Be less than 70 years of age upon appointment.

A complete list of qualifications, educational equivalents, allowed substitutions for experience, and other duties and application requirements must be picked up from the Clerk's Office, U.S. District Court, or downloaded from <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants are required to be United States citizens or otherwise eligible to work in the U.S.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to obtain the application package at the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, or downloaded from <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>. Applicants will be reviewed by a Merit Selection Panel that will recommend to the Chief Judge persons it considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected. All applications must be signed by the applicant personally, and must be received by January 25, 2013 at 3:30 pm. **Submit original plus 5 copies to:**

Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
123 Kopa di Oru Street
P.O. Box 50067
Saipan MP 96950

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer



CNMI Water Task Force ITB13-GOV-062



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the procurement of the supply and delivery of various materials for use in the optimization of the water wellheads on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bidders must bid on all items. A contract will be awarded to one supplier for all bid items

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 7, 2013**.

Any questions regarding this Invitation for Bids should be addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, CNMI Water Task Force at (670) 664-2285, or via facsimile at (670) 664-2279 before **January 18, 2013**.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Supply of Wellhead Materials**", ITB13-GOV-062 For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days of receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service no later than **February 5, 2013** AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than **February 14, 2013**.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 15, 2013. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m., local time, February 5, 2013.

Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposal and to waive any imperfection in a proposal in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Community rangers help clean, monitor Laolao Bay, Garapan

As part of its efforts to step up the conservation of precious marine resources in the CNMI, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance recently posted "community rangers" at various beach sites on Saipan to help monitor prohibited activities as well as heighten awareness about conservation practices.

The 14 community rangers, who vary in age, have undergone numerous trainings so they can better understand their role as environmental stewards and be keenly aware of the many threats that human activities pose to valuable coral reefs and its inhabitants. Although the rangers receive a minimal stipend for gas and other expenses, the rangers receive no salary.

"It's an honor to be a community ranger because I know that I am doing my part to help protect our environment, not just for myself, but for future generations," said Ben Saures, a resident of San Vicente.

The community ranger initiative is part of the MINA Tasi Watch Program, which was developed to build and strengthen local capacity involvement for near-shore marine management at Laolao Bay.

Primarily seen at Laolao Bay, the community rangers can be seen patrolling and cleaning the beaches, monitoring various sites for unusual activities and educating visitors and local residents about protecting our natural resources.

"While others in their generation are unaware or even indifferent to the CNMI's environmental threats and issues, these community rangers work together every weekend to ensure that the CNMI's visitors and residents are aware of the fragile nature of our reefs and other marine resources and the need to protect them," said Sam Sablan, MINA executive direc-

tor. "These men and women are here because they want to see environmental change in their community."

MINA is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit organization whose mission is to conserve and restore the array of habitat that sustain the Commonwealth's natural biodiversity and heritage. The

organization is composed of mostly volunteers. To learn more about the Tasi Watch Program, visit www.minapacific.org. (MINA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MINA Tasi Watch community rangers pose for a group photo behind the MINA office in Gualo Rai.



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*Some conditions apply

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TASC arrests two for alleged burglary

Acting Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, announced Friday more arrests made by the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition force of the CNMI Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigative Bureau. Operations conducted the past few days resulted in the following arrests:

■ ■ ■
NAME: ANASTACIO, Petrus
AGE: 52, Palauan, male

ADDRESS: Koblerville

LOCATION OF ARREST: Koblerville (suspect's residence)

DATE AND TIME OF ARREST: Jan. 9, 2013, at 9:34am

CHARGE(S): Conspiracy and principle to aiding and abetting to commit burglary and theft

BAIL: \$25,000 (cash)

STOLEN PROPERTY VALUE: Copper wire, two cas-

es of soda and power tools

RECOVERED PROPERTY VALUE: Copper wire, a cordless drill and skill saw

SYNOPSIS: Anastacio was arrested for committing a conspiracy and aiding and abetting to commit burglary and theft violation at the former Uno Moda Garment Factory in Afetnas on Dec. 19, 2012. Anastacio was brought before the CNMI Superior Court for a bail hearing on Jan. 9, 2013.

■ ■ ■
NAME: JINDAWONG, Jefrey

AGE: 18, Thai-Chamorro

ADDRESS: Koblerville

LOCATION OF ARREST: Koblerville (residence of suspect)

DATE AND TIME OF ARREST: Jan. 9, 2013 at 9:59am

CHARGE(S): Burglary, conspiracy, criminal mischief and theft

BAIL: \$25,000 (cash)

STOLEN PROPERTY VALUE: Copper wire, two cas-

BAIL: \$25,000 (cash)

STOLEN PROPERTY VALUE:

Two cases of soda, copper wire, skill saw, cordless drill and other types of power tools

RECOVERED PROPERTY VALUE: Copper wire, skill saw and a cordless drill

SYNOPSIS: Jindawong was arrested for committing a burglary, conspiracy, criminal mischief and theft violation at the former Uno Moda Garment Factory in Afetnas on Dec. 19, 2012. Jindawong will be brought before the CNMI Superior Court for a bail hearing on Jan. 9, 2013.

■ ■ ■

Ogumoro assures the public, there are still more arrests to be made in the coming days. All victims of property crimes who have filed a police report are urged to contact Sgt. Tom Blas at 664-9051 to help identify if

your property was recovered.

The community's assistance in reporting crimes or other suspicious activities are critical in helping the community stay safe and secure. If you want to remain anonymous contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. (DPS)

Bordallo reintroduces Coral Reef, IUU bills

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) has reintroduced two bills, H.R. 69, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2013, and H.R. 71, the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2013.

H.R. 69 seeks to enhance the enforcement authority of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard to regulate illegal fishing. The bill also increases capacity for inspection, identification, and monitoring of illegal foreign vessels, amends several international agreements to incorporate civil and criminal penalties and broadens data sharing authority with foreign governments in order to identify and penalize nations that do not comply with fisheries management regulations.

H.R. 71 would strengthen the Coral Reef Conservation Act by acting on changes recommended by the All Islands Coral Reef Initiative Committee. The bill seeks to improve NOAA's ability to respond to emergency or disaster-related situations and minimize the likelihood of vessel impacts on coral reefs. It would also codify the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force established in 1998 by President Clinton.

"These bills will help strengthen existing measures to protect our ocean resources and waters around Guam," said Bordallo. "Illegal fishing threatens the economic and social infrastructure of fishing communities, and the security of the United States and our allies around the world, by decreasing opportunities for legitimate and conscientious fishermen. The IUU Fishing Enforcement Act would further enhance the enforcement authority of NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard to regulate IUU fishing and prevent the depletion of fishing stocks worldwide."

"Additionally, I reintroduced the Coral Reef Reauthorization bill because this legislation has stimulated a greater commitment to protect, conserve and restore coral reef resources within jurisdictional waters of the United States. As a result,

EMO is advising the public and mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid boating in these conditions.

"If travel by boat is necessary,

exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets," the notice adds. (EMO)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 14, 2002

45 houses turned over to new owners

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation on Friday turned over 45 housing units in Tottenville to their new owners, following years of planning and construction marred with financial constraints. NMHC board chair Juan S. Tenorio led the turnover ceremonies, as he welcomed the new homeowners to their new residence in Koblerville, which was contracted by the NMHC to the Telesource CNMI, Inc. and the SSFM Saipan, Inc. Fr. Joseph Billoti of the Koblerville Parish was also present during Friday's soft opening to bless the new residential subdivision.

CRMO may reconsider sanctions vs DPW

The Coastal Resources Management Office issued Friday a monetary fine against the Department of Public Works for failure to remove the hazardous waste near the Tanapag shoreline, but CRMO acting administrator Joaquin Salas said he may reconsider the enforcement action once the department makes any progress this week. "If by next week I see there's action and progress... I'm willing to sit down and discuss my enforcement action further with the acting Secretary of Public Works," Salas said in an interview Friday. Salas received a letter from Public Works Acting Secretary Joseph P. Rosario on that day, requesting for the reconsideration of the CRMO's notice of violation and penalty against the department that carried a \$10,000 fine.

Jan. 14, 2003

Ada: Leaders should take the first cut

Elected leaders should be an example to government employees and take the lead in the proposed wage cuts by giving up a portion of their annual salaries first, according to Rep. Martin B. Ada. Ada went as far as pledging \$100 to \$300 of his \$39,300-annual salary as a House Representative in order to contribute to the government's cost-saving agenda. "I'm willing to cut my salary down from what I am supposed to be receiving. My genuine proposal is to start with the government leaders and then we take it from there. Later, we can ask the people if they are willing to sacrifice a little, but based also on their income," said the Saipan congressman.

Many PSS staff stay with GHIL

Majority of the Public School System personnel have chosen to stick with the government's Group Health Life and Insurance despite apprehension of possible delay in medical services for lack of funding. This came amid reports that only about 100 PSS staff shifted to private insurance companies, following the financial mess involving the government's insurance program. PSS finance director Richard Waldo said more PSS personnel decided not to change insurance providers for economic reasons. "Employees are a little nervous but they stick with GHIL. They know that private insurance is more expensive."

Jan. 14, 2005

MVA now behind in paying its vendors

The Marianas Visitors Authority is now delayed in its payments to its marketing offices, as the agency continues to await some \$2.4 million of its budget from the Department of Finance. MVA managing director Vicky Benavente reported that Finance has yet to disburse almost \$2 million of MVA's appropriation for the current fiscal year and some \$480,000 from fiscal year 2004, which ended on Sept. 30. As a result MVA now has accounts with vendors that are outstanding for 30 to 60 days, said Benavente, who also expressed confidence that "the money will be coming to MVA in the next couple of months." She added that the situation is nothing new to MVA and its vendors, as the agency has been operating under this system for the past six years.

Senate mulls restaging Brown's confirmation

The Senate is inclined to hold a session on Rota to officially put on record the confirmation of Attorney General Pamela Brown. Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano said that he discussed such possibility with deputy attorney general Clyde Lemons Wednesday. The official went to Adriano's office Wednesday to talk about the lack of Senate record on Brown's confirmation in November 2003. Adriano denied that Lemons served him a subpoena. "He came to my office and we talked about that [subpoena] but it's not necessary at this time," the senator said. Senate legal counsel Michael Ernest, in a separate interview, also said that no member of the Senate would be subpoenaed over the issue.

Open auditions for new musical revue

Russ Mason, in association with NMPASI, will be holding auditions for a new musical revue, *Island Life*.

The auditions will be held at the San Vicente Elementary School auditorium on Jan. 19 and 20, starting at 6pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome to come.

Rehearsals will be held weekday evenings and the show will be presented in April, and then perhaps visit Saipan schools and community centers after that.

Island Life is described as being "a bit like Saturday Night Live, but with some serious moments as well."

Mason, who has written and directed many musical productions, says, "I do things a little differently. I get the cast first, and then write the show to suit their abilities. This has always

worked well, and has been a joyous experience for everybody. My hope is that people who have never been onstage before will give it a shot. It's more fun than you can imagine."

"We are looking for a cast of 10 people, all ages, all backgrounds. The more diverse, the better. We will also need some

musicians for the house band—primarily electric guitar, bass and drums. But if someone is terrific on the trumpet, then I want to meet him or her. We will work them in somehow. The Saipan community is diverse, and the show should reflect that diversity."

Jim Rayphand of NMPASI contacted Mason to ask if

themes such as discrimination,

mental health and substance abuse might be included.

Mason agreed, saying, "The show

needs some depth. These topics touch everyone's lives, and need to be addressed. That way there will be a balance between the funny stuff and the serious stuff. Jim Rayphand and NMPASI have agreed to produce the show, and they have been tremendously supportive."

"Frank Gibson has also been a great help, and has emailed 350 notices to actors and performers on Saipan. So I am optimistic that we will get some interesting people to do the show," said Mason. "But, as with *American Idol*, I am hopeful that shy people will find the courage to come to the auditions. There is an awful lot of talent here, and we would like to present it in *Island Life*." (PR)

Small craft advisory still in effect

The Emergency Management Office is reminding the public that the small craft advisory it issued Friday remains in effect until 6pm today, Monday.

According to an EMO notice yesterday, a weak shear line will bring fresh winds with strong to near gale force gusts to Marianas waters through Monday.

"East winds of 20 knots with frequent gusts to 25 knots and occasional gusts to 30 knots will combine with seas of 9 to 10 feet to produce conditions hazardous to operators of small craft," it adds.

EMO is advising the public and mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid boating in these conditions.

"If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets," the notice adds. (EMO)



BON VOYAGE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A son, a husband, a nephew, a father, a brother, from a police officer to an active soldier. Antonio Litulumar Kaipat 2nd, you are leaving so many hearts that are here for you for basic training. We are so proud of you. Have a safe trip and may God bless you wherever you go and guide you through. Best wishes coming from the Jones Castro family.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Jeremiah Diaz, who is celebrating his special day on Jan. 12, 2013. Wishing you another wonderful year of happiness and joy. Happy birthday JBoy! God bless! Greetings come from your Hernandez family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Navy open house for Marianas range complex draft EA

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy is inviting the public to attend open house information sessions for the Environmental Assessment/Overseas Environmental Assessment for the Mariana Islands Range Complex Airspace.

The Navy analyzed the potential environmental impacts from proposed modifications to military training airspace and sea space in the MIRC. Proposed modifications are needed to provide a safer and more efficient training environment and to maintain military readiness.

Two public open house information sessions will be held to inform the public about the proposed action and environmental issues analyzed, and to encourage the public to provide written and/or verbal comments on the Draft EA/OEA. During this time, Navy representatives will staff poster stations and be available to answer questions

about the proposed action and the draft EA.

On Saipan, the open house information session will be held on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 5pm to 8pm.

A similar session will be held at the Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building at the University of Guam on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013, also from 5pm to 8pm.

Copies of the draft EA/OEA are available for public review online at www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com and at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Saipan); Tinian Public Library; and Rota Public Library.

A 45-day public comment period will be held from Dec. 20, 2012, to Feb. 4, 2013, to give the public an opportunity to provide input. Comments may be submitted online at www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com, at the open

house information sessions or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific

Attention: Mariana Airspace EA/OEA Project Manager

258 Makalapa Drive, Suite

100

Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

All comments must be postmarked or received by Feb. 4, 2013, to be considered in the de-

velopment of the Final EA/OEA.

The Navy analyzed the potential environmental impacts of three alternatives in the Draft EA/OEA:

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:

■ Continue training as currently authorized and implemented by the 2010 MIRC Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

ALTERNATIVE 1:

■ Modify existing military airspace and establish new airspace for public safety and training efficiency by:

■ Extending the Restricted Area (R-7201) at Farallon de Medinilla from 3 nautical miles to 12 nm and designate the new area as R-7201A

■ Creating new Warning Areas and replace existing Air Traffic

Control Assigned Airspace

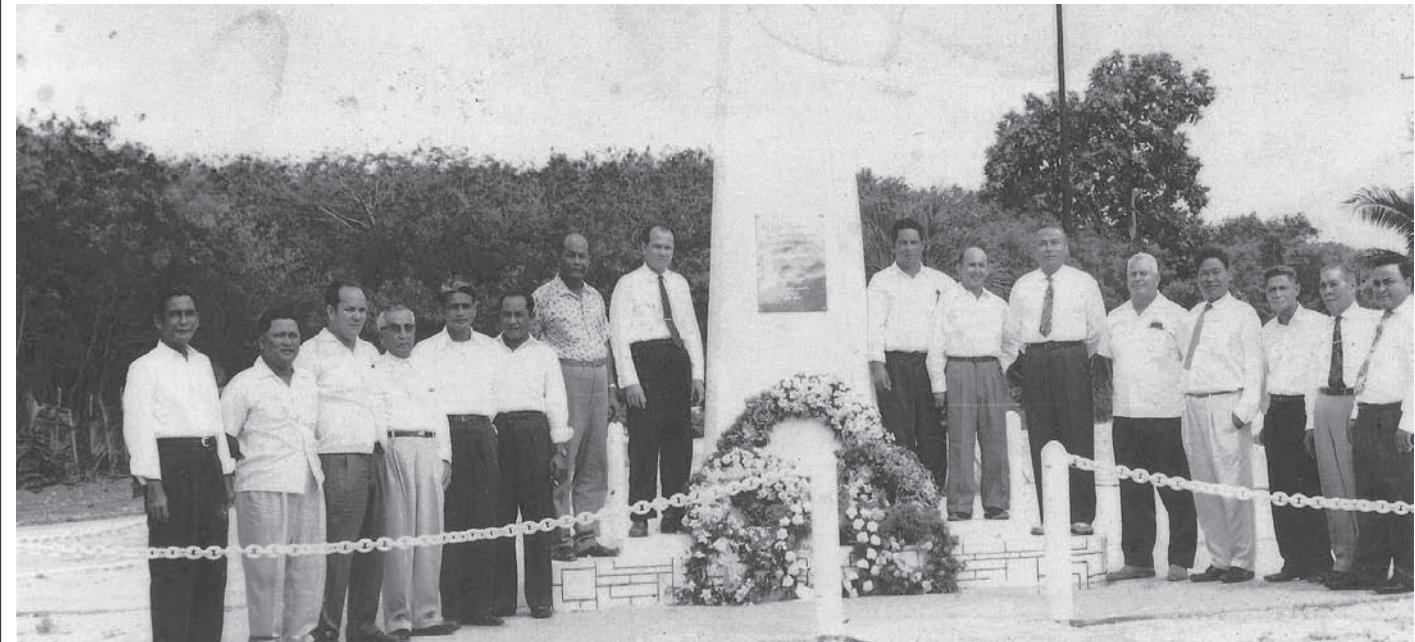
ALTERNATIVE 2:

■ Modify and extend airspace as described under Alternative 1.

■ Expand the sea space danger zone around FDM from the 10 nm distance analyzed in the MIRC EIS/OEIS to 12 nm.

For more information about the project, visit www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com. (PR)

Chamber 2013 Installation Dinner on Jan. 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows the original founders of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce taken at Microl intersection in 1959 by a U.S. Navy photographer.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2013 Installation Dinner on Jan. 26, 2013, Saturday, at the Aqua Resort Club in Tanapag, Saipan. Nine new Chamber officers and directors will be sworn into office and the 2012 Chamber Businessperson of the Year will be announced.

The historical treasures of Tinian include ancient Chamorro limestone pillars called Taga stones (within walking distance of the festival), to relics from the Japanese era of administration of the islands, to WWII ruins.

Tinian is accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at (670) 433-9365 or email at vborja@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Joint Region Marianas.

Outgoing Chamber president Douglas Brennan and incoming president Alex A. Sablan will deliver remarks to the Chamber audience and dignitaries. Associate Judge David Wiseman will swear in the new officers and directors for the twelfth consecutive year and the Saipan Southern High School Color Guard will open the evening's event with its presentation of colors.

Entertainment will be provided

by the Aqua Resort's musical ensemble before dinner and a visual package of past installation dinners will be shown prior to the actual program's opening.

Tickets for the evening are available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices in Garapan, or by calling the Chamber office at 233-7150. Tickets are \$50 per person. Proceeds from the evening will go directly to the Chamber's college scholarship fund for the annual college scholarship awards to be

presented at the SCC June general membership meeting. Table and individual reservations are available, while recommended attire is island formal.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the CNMI. The Chamber's 168 members work to promote and protect the business, economic and civic interests, and general health and welfare of the Commonwealth. (SCC)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The property described below "Lot 005 I 163" which contains 963 square meters as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 005I 02, is the subject of a lease between Rufina Duenas Mostales and Marsha Kim. Said lease was executed on September 28, 1990.

The lessor, Rufina Duenas Mostales is aware that the lessee, Marsha Kim is deceased and that certain presumed heirs occupied the leasehold in years after the death of lessee. They have since ceased to inhabit or use the property and it has been left unattended for nearly one year. The lessor has noticed that the above described property is in a state of deterioration and must be attended to, to avoid irreparable harm.

Therefore the lessor gives notice that she intends to reenter the above described property on pursuant to Section 4 and 14 of the above referenced lease. Any person objecting to, or asserting any claim of legal interest in the property should make contact with the lessor by January 26, 2013. The lessor can be contacted by calling (670) 235-0759 or (670) 286-5942 or by mail under P.O. Box 504774, Saipan, MP 96950.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF

ARCTIC CIRCLE AIR CO.

CALLED BY THE STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that, and in accordance with Article II, Section 3 and 4 of the By-Laws of Arctic Circle Air Co. (the "Corporation") and 4 CMC § 4392 (a) (2), a special meeting of the stockholders of the Corporation will be held on January 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corporation's office located in the former Census Office on International Terminal Lane, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands for the following purpose:

To amend the Corporation's Article of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized Class A Common shares from 750,000 to 5,000,000.

The close of business on January 9, 2013 has been fixed as the record date for the determining stockholders entitled to receive notice of and vote at this meeting, or any adjournment thereof. Attendance of this special meeting by the shareholders of the Corporation is optional, and shareholders are invited but not required to attend.

Dated: January 9, 2013.

BY ORDER OF ANTHONY PELLEGRINO,
PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglaries at Energy Division

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on several burglary and theft incidents that occurred at the Energy Division Warehouse located at the Chalan Kiya Industrial Warehouse No. 5, and the main office located on Capital Hill building No. 1337.

On Oct. 18, 2012, employees discovered several boxes were missing from the Chalan Kiya warehouse. An inventory was conducted and 25 boxes of 16" Aerospeed oscillating pedestal fans model No. PF160, and 174 portable butane stoves model No. MS-3500. The total value is over \$3,000.

On Dec. 3, 2012, at about

8am, Energy Division employees discovered missing items inside the Capital Hill Office building No. 1237. The items stolen include one 40-inch Sony Bravia flat screen, one wireless USB adapter, and one Eee Pad tablet PC Model (W05HA). The total value \$2,500. In both cases, there were no signs of forced entry.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)

Opinion

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

'Gun Appreciation Day'—a heartless and cruel idea

We were starting to feel optimistic about reasonable regulation of guns after a *Washington Post* report this week that the commission on gun violence overseen by Vice President Joe Biden following the Newtown, Conn., massacre was not just going to go after the low-hanging fruit, but would do a serious job of imposing much-needed regulations.

For example, the group is considering not just an assault weapons ban, but also universal background checks for firearm buyers, a national database to track the movement and sale of weapons, and strengthened mental-health checks. Biden has been meeting with a broad base of groups, including the NRA. Perhaps the fractious civil war over guns that has hampered progress had finally abated, though it took the death of 20 children.

But then ...

Then we got word that the numbskull response by the NRA to fight gun violence by installing armed guards in every school in the country has been topped by something even more outrageous: a coalition of conservative groups has proclaimed Jan. 19 "Gun Appreciation Day."

That appalling and heartless "celebration" falls just five weeks after 20 sets of parents in Connecticut lost their children to gunfire. The Second Amendment Foundation and others are calling on people to show up at gun stores and gun ranges to protest what they call the Obama administration's assault on gun rights.

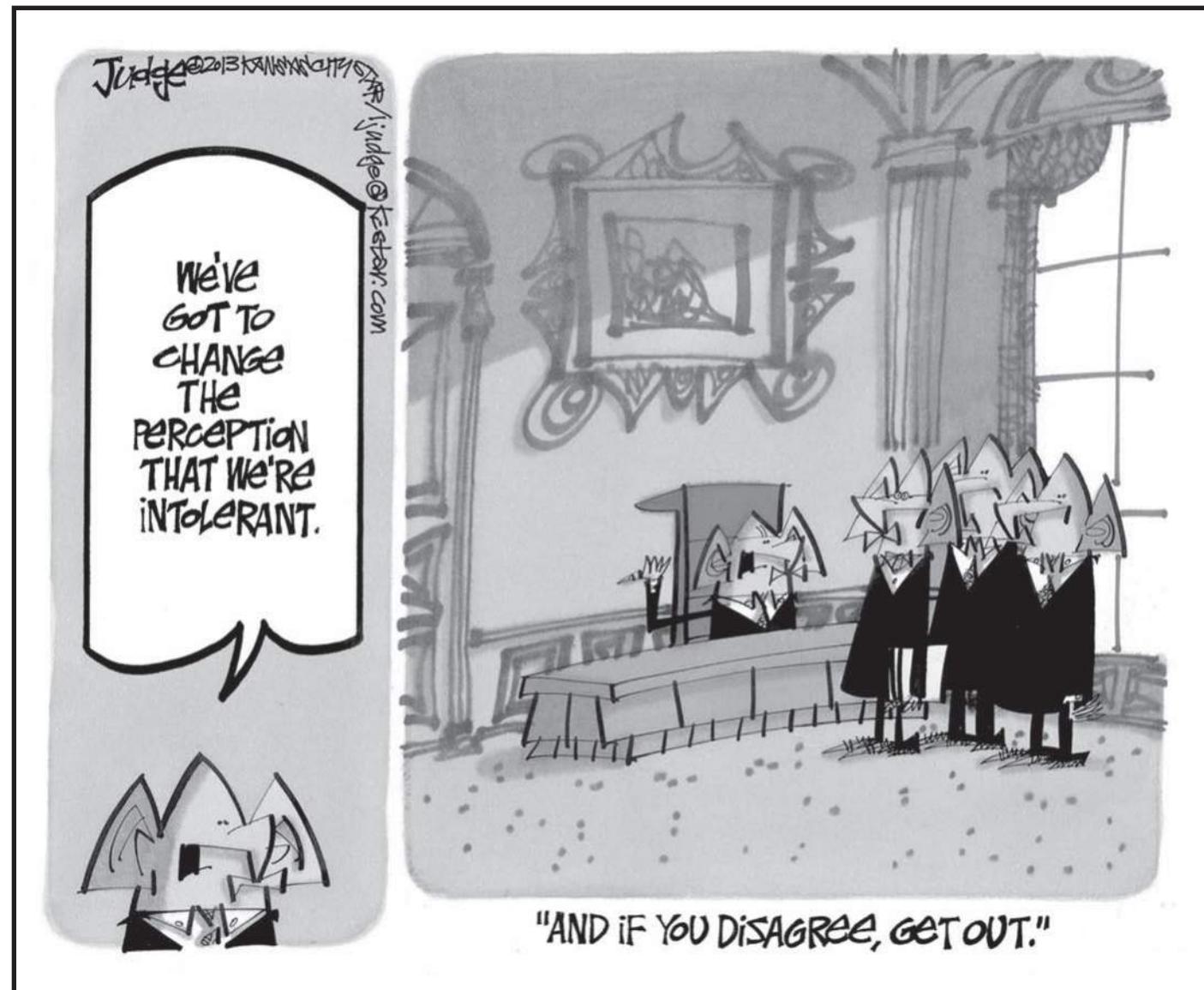
We wish we were making this up, but even we don't have a twisted enough imagination to conjure such an outrage.

What is it with these gun fetishists? In the most armed country in the world—with 90 guns for every 100 people—a lobbying group that convinced gun owners they have divine rights, and where civic and political leaders are so intimidated by the NRA that something as simple as a ban on the types of weapons that can massacre a classroom full of children in minutes requires a fight, we again fail to see how rational regulation equals "an assault on rights."

Very few people are saying "repeal the Second Amendment." In fact, one commentator did such a thing, back in 2007 following the mass murder at Virginia Tech. Walter Shapiro argued: "Looking at the Bill of Rights with more than two centuries' hindsight, it is simply irrational that firearms have a protected position on par with freedom of speech and religion. Were Americans—liberal or conservative...writing a Constitution completely from scratch today, they probably would agree that something akin to 'freedom to drive' was far more important than the 'right to bear arms.'"

We urge Biden and the Obama administration to stand firm on the strong controls that they are discussing. Included in that must also be a recognition that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which has been without a permanent leader for six years, must be strengthened.

Is your worst-case scenario that the government is going to take your guns away? Consider parents who are living with a far-worse scenario: that a gun has taken their child away.



An open letter all incoming legislators

Congratulations to all of you for being elected to political office. Today begins a new period of your leadership. You have worked hard and deserve the position you have won. For the next two years you will decide the future and fortune of our islands by the decisions you make. You possess awesome powers to improve our community and our lives. Your decisions will impact on us hopefully in a positive manner. Remember we have placed our trust and faith in you to lead us.

Please remember that being a lawmaker is a duty, not a job. As a good soldier pledges his duty to defend his country, you must pledge your duty to the same way. As mentioned above, we have chosen you because we believe and trust in you. Of all the virtues, trust is one of the most important. To betray trust bestowed upon you is one of the most heinous crimes you can commit against us, your constituents. What type of person is a man or woman without trust?

You are the catalyst and hope for leading us back to prosperity. But before you can do that you must realize exactly what your functions at the Legislature are and how powerful you are.

Please cut out the following pledge and place it squarely in the middle of your desk and glance at it daily:

"By the trust given to me, I pledge to honestly represent the people of the CNMI. My duty is to help my people. I pledge this honor above all else. I shall seek only what is good for the general public. I will never sacrifice my duty for personal gain, so help me God!"

Basically the way I understand your function is that you the Legislature decides what kind of community we will have. Everything starts with you. Bills having to do with money, taxes, conduct affecting us citizens, appointments to government agencies, education, businesses, budget expenditures—bills for everything. When these bills become law they dictate our course of action and conduct. It all starts with you, ladies and gentlemen.

The administration then implements and enforces the laws that you create. It does not create laws. It only carries them out. Remember you also have the power to override any veto by the governor when he refuses to sign one of your bills.

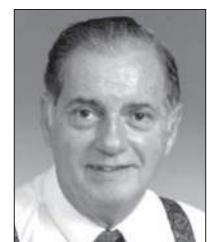
At times it amazes me when you esteemed ladies and gentlemen forget, or do not fully grasp, this basic concept. Your decisions and attitudes set the tone for all of us citizens. You are the backbone for economic development because you decide what types and to what extent businesses can be conducted in the CNMI. Again, you—the Legislature—possess tremendous power over the islands and over our lives.

Please strive for a unified cooperation among all of your members. That doesn't mean that you have to automatically approve everything. But after debating the matter you must come to a consensus.

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



sus. We all understand that, without a unified goal, the community will not benefit. I strongly encourage you to stand tall and be proud that you have been elected to lead. Let us feel your strength and let us profit from your wisdom. Being a lawmaker is a duty, not a job.

As a member of the Legislature, please seek and encourage potential investors to invest in our islands. But equally important is that you encourage our citizens to become businesspeople. You must encourage us to explore the opportunities within our islands. Encouragement coming from you means so much because we look up to you.

Please motivate the local farmers to improve and increase their crop production. Please encourage our youth to learn a trade or profession. You must motivate all of us to reach out and make our dreams come true. Feel the pain of despair that so many of our people feel. Try to get us off food stamps and encourage us to learn a trade or profession.

By your sincerity and commitment to our Commonwealth, we can once again rise like the legendary phoenix does from its own ashes. By being determined and acting in a unified manner and with your fine examples, we can overcome insurmountable obstacles.

May God grant you the courage to do the right thing. May He also grant you the wisdom to know what you can and cannot do. May He grant you the determination to lead us bravely at any cost.

Again please live by the motto: "I have been elected to lead! Duty to my country comes first!"

Keep in mind that when you finally leave office, what do you wish to be remembered for? What legacy will you leave us? A wise man once said: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. But what we do for others lives on forever."

Daily we live and hope for a better future with our faith and trust in you. Do not forsake us. Lead and we shall follow! Again, congratulations on being elected our representative. May God bless you all!

Sincerely,
All Your Concerned Constituents

Presisu Na Tolai Relasion

Imahatsa na tolai usun para un' falag otru bandan sadog 'sino tasi. Estague' na fasilitad sumede muebementun tautau siha gi entalo' siuda.

Gi este na biahe, mauleg ta usa este na tolai kumu relasion ni ta establese yan prohimuta. Ginen este na pisu 'nai mas libianu ta suhon asuntota gi hilu' inafamauleg.

Gi hilu' este na tolai, debi u guaha inafigoku gi usun palabras ni maseñala yan masera fotmat gi hilu' sinsiyu na inatuñgo'. Estague' muna' tatautau i tautau.

Este na fina'pos tautau 'nai umeyag-yu' pinasensia gi maseha haye na kilisyano asoda'hu. Makat hu chat-atan sa' tautau i prohimu. Siña ha' ti hu goflamen gi tutuhon. Lau haf' ya sige mona ya guiya umufrese-yu' ayudu guihe na ora 'nai ni unu gi hihot yan guahu gaige?

Pot ihemphlo: Guaha un' amiguhi basuleru ni sessu umafagcha' ham 'an mattu para u rikohe basulan mame. Hu faisen haf' tatata manu-gue'. Ti masa' sumañgan chinatsagaña. Ti ha sasañgan pot para bai' ma'ase', lau sinsiyu na ekspressiu. Hu hakot fina' katne yan guihan gi deep freeze ya hu na'e para i familiaña dimas de u lastima.

Un' talo'ane pañku karetahu ya hu pega gi kantun chalan para bai' tulaika i reda. 'Nai ha li'eyu' sumugu' ya guiya tumulukay-e-yu'. Ti hihot na amigu lau pot mauleg relasion mame mina' ti masa' sumugu' pot para u ayudayu'. Magahet na todur tinituhon gi fina' redondou siempre u fattu tatte.

Famauleg i prohimumu sa' parehu hamyu tautau. Los ultimos, maseha haf' un' petsige mas metgot inañgukomu na fitme ayu na tolai i unna' sesetbe gi kareramu bes enkuando.

■■■

Makat Na Hinanau

Kareran i ma'pos na sakan, klaru na tai fiñkas iya Marianas kumbre i mas man-presisu siha na obligasioña. Ennau i \$126 milion pesus nina' halomña. Na suha 80 pot sientu ginen este na totat sa' i sebla para otru siha nesessidat. Destrosiau ekonomian

i tanu'.

■■■

Sige lokue' i man-retirau ma-akanteha haf' kinalamten i programa ni makatkula na u hokog fondoña gi Matsu 2014. Sin antau na areglu magpu' este na programa. Ni achog u guaha nina' sañgemu kantida gi bañku, siempre hokog sa' tai katsu esta ginen i programan man-retirau.

■■■

Ti hoñgiyun na mientras mas i tautau amku' mas lokue' ka-hulu' i gaston mantension hinemlo'ña. Piot ya esta i tautau kumama, siempre ha nesessita ayudun infetmera. Mas makat este na asuntu para i familia.

■■■

I hagas doku' na sabanetan dibi ni mama' tadtuñg na halom tanu' siempre hana' fan abag hit yangin para ta pokate. Gi halom homhum 'nai siempre tafan mamokat gi hilu' ansiosu na diniseha na u guaha maseha dikiki' na kandet para u giha hit mona.

■■■

Gi hilu' hinimidde

Tai bali para tafan a'trukus pot taya' fiñkas gi kahan iya Marianas. I chinatsaga u tunug gi kada familia guine, impeachment pat taya' impeachment.

Mampos mañcontentu i man-ma'gasta na kulan mohon todusani kinalamtena. I kuestion: Kau makomprende haf' hagas humila'gue hit? Kau pot mampos ha hogse hit i mañan bwibwiyan mañana na ta hasñgun lumetke i asuntu siha?

Inipos na' disganau i sensian mañana gi man-ma'gas Republican na achog patgon eskuela ha dimimoria haf' masusesec: It's da cuffmen nai!

■■■

A'konsehu yan konsuelu

I mañge' yan nama'aggem na konsuelu na tiempu i na'magofna finu man-amko'ta ni umulus yan sumimientu gi korasonta bittun pinasensia. Ilegña un' amku', "Cha'mu hinahalañg sa' tat

neñkanu' mapapañot sin mañgañañgas. Siempre ta ñigañas ya tana' mamtu' antes de ta pañot". Ya haf' ya to'lañ ha' man-mana'yan hit?

Magahet na i sensian pinasensia sumen nama'aggem ya un' siente ha' 'nai pinalala'e hau gi duranten konbetsasion. Un' chagua mañan impiitu pot para unna' halom pinasensia. Mas kontentu hau dispues de ayu na konbetsasion. Antau na a'konsehu ma-apagat hau antes de un' chagua hau gi lamasa.

Bastara ke man-amku', masen tuñgu dobladan palabras 'nai mana' mansun ñaihon i machaleg na kustumbremu. Malasa apaga'mu dispues sige i to'a' na finu a'konsehu. Dispues maññe' na konbetsasion siha pot finapos niha. Yangin para un' fan imbeste, mana' fan hassu hau, "Esta ihu ginen ennau-yu".

Sessu hu huñgog, "Sañgane-yu' haye amigumu ya bai' sañgane hau haf' hau na klasen tautau". Sen magahet pineduñg ayu na kuentos. 'An saki i amigumu puer siempre sumaunau hau man-umpañg ni ti iyomu. Doble problema 'nai un' benden ñaihon gi otru. Mauleg umekuñgog pot no un' repite linache siha. Tatnai sisida para un' kakanta "Irene Goodnight" gi halom tribunat.

■■■

Chata' an ayu na oga'an 'nai mamokat i patgon para eskuela. Un' manadan fache' gi chalan. Ha atetuye pinakatña ya ha "adañañga" i inetnon fache siha. Addañga kumeke ilegña, "gope". Kulan antigosu na palabra lau layeye pot ti sessu ta usa.

Group appeals for release of refunds

Editor's Note: The following is a statement of position submitted on behalf of "Active Employees Unite" to the U.S. District Court on Jan. 11, 2013, and addressed to designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood. The Active Employees Unite is an organization of non-retired members of the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan. This statement of position is being published at the request of the organization.

Pro se written statement of the group "Active Employees Unite" for the hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands on Jan. 15, 2013 in the case of Betty Johnson v. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, et al., Civil Case 09-00023.

This statement is submitted by the group "Active Employees Unite," which is composed of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government employees who have applied to withdraw their employee contributions with interest from the Defined Benefit Plan of the NMI Retirement Fund pursuant to Public Law 17-82. While we are submitting this statement *pro se*, we are awaiting the results of this hearing in order to determine if we need to be represented by legal counsel in this case.

We are submitting this statement because the Retirement Fund has suspended distributing employee contributions with interest as required by PL 17-82 "until the federal court provides guidance on future disbursements" (letter of Nov. 13, 2012 from the trustee *ad litem* to the NMI Retirement Fund members). In submitting this statement, we respectfully request that this court issue an order to the trustee *ad litem* directing him to comply with and implement PL 17-82, and specifically directing him to disburse the employee contributions with regular interest to those members of the Defined Benefit Plan who have elected or will elect to terminate their membership in the Defined Benefit Plan pursuant to PL 17-82.

Besides being a valid law, PL 17-82 should be implemented immediately for the following additional reasons:

- PL 17-82 represents the will of those who represent the people of the CNMI as a whole. The legislation that became PL 17-82 was House Bill 17-315. The CNMI Senate approved HB 17-315 by a vote of 7-0 on Aug. 29, 2012, and the CNMI House approved HB 17-315 by a vote of 16-1 on Sept. 5, 2012. As of Jan. 9, 2013, nearly 2,000 persons have filed applications with the Retirement Fund to withdraw their employee contributions with interest pursuant to PL 17-82. Thus, most of the persons who are eligible to withdraw their contributions with interest

have chosen to do so.

2. Under the legal status quo in the CNMI, disbursing employee contributions with interest to Defined Benefit Plan members pursuant to PL 17-82 does not reduce the amount of money in the Retirement Fund that is available to pay the retirement benefits of current retirees. This is because the CNMI Superior Court has set aside \$113 million in the Retirement Fund for non-retired members of the Retirement Fund, and this \$113 million cannot be used for any other purposes. This \$113 million is the money for the disbursement of employee contributions with interest pursuant to PL 17-82.

3. Allowing Defined Benefit Plan members to withdraw their employee contributions with interest will improve significantly the long-term financial condition of the Retirement Fund because it will reduce significantly the unfunded liability of the Fund.

4. To ensure the youngest Defined Benefit Plan members' ages 29-39 eventual retirement 20-25 years from today, the Fund would have to maintain at present around 1 billion dollars in both assets and investment. These members who comprise the CNMI's young educated class continue to pay into a Fund that has no possible chance of benefitting them. In stark contrast, the current average age of retirees is 64; the current life expectancy in the CNMI is 63 for males and 67 for females. The current pool of retirees requires significantly less money to maintain benefits.

5. Non-retired members need their employee contributions with interest so that they can invest these funds to supplement what might otherwise be meager future retirement benefits. PL 17-82 allows members who would not otherwise see any return on their lifelong investment take control over their own money and begin over again to invest it for their future. At the same time, the dramatic reduction of the Fund's unfunded liability through full implementation of PL 17-82 will make solutions to funding the current retirees viable.

6. Many Defined Benefit Plan members relied on the promises that the CNMI government made to them in PL 17-82, and additionally, relied on the reasonable expectation of the timely payment of refunds in compliance with PL 17-82. The Retirement Fund did not challenge PL 17-82, but instead proceeded with the implementation of a process for withdrawals, paid out the first batch of refunds within the timeframe designated by PL 17-82, and the trustee *ad litem* stated prior to Nov. 13, 2012, in all of his related correspondence to members that refunds were forthcoming. Because of this reasonable expectation, many members have taken out loans and incurred expenses they would not have otherwise taken on, expecting that their refunds were forthcoming. However, they cannot meet these commitments of theirs because the Retirement Fund has suspended the disbursement of employee contributions with interest that is required PL 17-82.

7. Many non-retired members are facing financial hardships and need their employee contributions with interest to pay for

medical expenses (including medical referrals), their children's educational expenses, to avoid foreclosures, etc.

In regards to the motion of plaintiff Betty Johnson to order an actuarial study, it is our position that such a study is unnecessary for the following reasons. (1) The essential financial condition of the Fund is well known, having had regular studies over the last 10 years. (2) An additional actuarial study would not serve any purpose other than to delay the implementation of PL 17-82. (3) Such a study would have no bearing on the ability of the Fund to meet its obligations to current retirees, as funds have been set aside by the CNMI Superior Court for the sole benefit of non-retired members of the Defined Benefit Plan. (4) Such a study will further hinder the ability of non-retired members to receive their funds in order to reinvest them in a timely manner.

Judge, we ask this court to issue an order to the trustee *ad litem* of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund directing the trustee *ad litem* to comply with and implement PL 17-82, and specifically directing him to disburse the employee contributions with regular interest to those members of the Defined Benefit Plan who have elected or will elect to terminate their membership in the Defined Benefit Plan pursuant to PL 17-82. In making this request, we are only asking for what is rightfully and legally ours.

We have attached a copy of a petition signed by 749 non-retired members of the Defined Benefit Plan produced in an effort to seek a remedy to the suspension of refunds by the trustee *ad litem* that was originally directed to CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

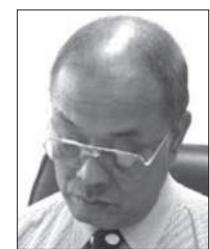
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Inaccurate

The article titled "New House members discuss Fitial impeachment with judiciary" in the Jan. 11, 2013, edition of the *Marianas Variety* concerning the CNMI Judiciary's Law and the Freshman Legislator seminar on Jan. 10, 2013, was inaccurate in its suggestion that there was any discussion whatsoever concerning the issue of impeachment in relation to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. There was absolutely no discussion of impeachment related to any specific individual.

Representative-elect Ralph Yumul confirmed to the Judiciary on Friday that a question was raised about the impeachment process during the seminar but that Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro clearly stated it was a subject that could not be discussed and was not. On Friday, Chief Justice Castro added, "The Judiciary is mindful of the need for impartiality and never discusses pending or impending cases, consistent with our code of judicial conduct."

Jim Stowell
PIO, CNMI Judiciary



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly clear. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 88° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▾ 77
Yap	Sunny	▲ 86 ▾ 79
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 82
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 81
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 81
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 72 ▾ 65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▾ 20
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▾ 59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▾ 69
London	Ice	▲ 37 ▾ 30
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 58 ▾ 37
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▾ 76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▾ 52
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▾ 69
New York	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 37
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 52 ▾ 40
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 35 ▾ 29
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▾ 35
Rome	Rain	▲ 52 ▾ 43
Salem	Sunny	▲ 44 ▾ 33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 53 ▾ 40
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 35 ▾ 20
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 50 ▾ 40
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 59 ▾ 41

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Today	8:27 AM	8:33 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Tuesday	9:12 AM	9:28 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM	Wednesday	9:55 AM	10:21 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM	Thursday	10:36 AM	11:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Friday	11:16 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVERLOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-BEIJING

Business

FAA to review of Boeing 787, but calls plane safe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government stepped in Friday to assure the public that Boeing's new 787 "Dreamliner" is safe to fly, even as it launched a comprehensive review to find out what caused a fire, a fuel leak and other worrisome incidents this week.

Despite the incidents, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood declared, "I believe this plane is safe, and I would have absolutely no reservations about boarding one of these planes and taking a flight." Administrator Michael Huerta of the Federal Aviation Administration said his agency has seen no data suggesting the plane isn't safe but wanted the review to find out why safety-related incidents were occurring.

The 787 is the aircraft maker's newest and most technologically advanced airliner, and the company is counting heavily on its success. It relies more than any other modern airliner on electrical signals to help power nearly everything the plane does. It's also the first Boeing plane to use rechargeable lithium ion batteries, which charge faster and can be molded to space-saving shapes compared to other airplane batteries. The plane is made with lightweight composite materials instead of aluminum.

A fire ignited Monday in the battery pack of an auxiliary power unit of a Japan Airlines 787 empty of passengers as the plane sat on the tarmac at Boston's Logan International Airport. It took firefighters 40 minutes to put out the blaze. Also this week, a fuel leak

delayed a flight from Boston to Tokyo of another Japan Airlines 787.

On Friday, Japan's All Nippon Airways reported two new cases of problems with the aircraft. ANA spokeswoman Ayumi Kunitatsu said a very small amount of oil was discovered leaking from an engine of a 787 flight from southern Japan's Miyazaki airport to Tokyo.

The jet returned to Miyazaki, and after checks found no safety risk it flew to Tokyo. ANA said that on another flight, to Matsuyama on the island of Shikoku, glass in a cockpit window cracked, and the aircraft was grounded for repairs. ANA said it has no specific plan for inspections and will continue regular operations, though it said it would comply with instructions from the FAA and other authorities.

The FAA review announced Friday, which will be conducted jointly with Boeing, will include the design, manufacture and assembly of the 787 with an emphasis on the plane's electrical power and distribution systems. The review will also examine how the plane's electrical and mechanical systems interact with each other.

There is no obvious trend or similarity to the problems, which suggests they are more likely the result of quality control than a design flaw, aviation safety experts said.

"These appear to be isolated incidents," said John Goglia, a former National Transportation Safety Board member. However, the battery fire re-

mains a special concern because "they overheat or burn with such intensity, at such high temperatures, they can cause damage to the surrounding aircraft structure," he said.

Boeing has insisted that the 787's problems are no worse than it experienced when its 777 was new in the mid-1990s. That plane is now one of its top-sellers and is well-liked by airlines.

"Every new commercial aircraft has issues as it enters service," said Ray

Conner, the president and CEO of Boeing's commercial aircraft division, who joined Huerta and LaHood at a Washington news conference.

Passenger Adam Welch in Seattle agreed. He had picked an All Nippon Airways flight to Korea specifically because it would be on the 787.

"I'm expecting it to be more comfortable. I'm very interested in experiencing the 787," said Welch. "I've been listening to the stories this morning and

I was just hoping they didn't ground the plane I was supposed to fly on."

Some of Boeing's airline customers joined the chorus affirming support for the plane. United Airlines, the only U.S. carrier whose fleet includes the 787, said it has confidence in the airliner and will continue to operate its six 787s as scheduled. Air India said it planned no changes. Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker called the troubles "minor setbacks." LOT, the Polish airline, said that it has conducted a series of reviews of all systems in both its Boeing 787s. "All the tests were completed positively—the systems are efficient and work well," the airline said.

The FAA's decision to conduct a comprehensive review of the 787 is fairly remarkable but was necessary to reassure the public, airline analysts said.

"Most likely, you're looking a manufacturing issue that will change as they learn to build the aircraft, but there's also the possibility that some systems might need tweaking," said Richard Aboulafia of the Teal Group in Fairfax, Va. "Either way, we're not looking at anything that undermines the aircraft's long-term prospects, just something that creates a large number of upfront headaches for Boeing and its customers."

Boeing has delivered 50 of the 787s, starting in late 2011, and has orders for nearly 800 more. To get through the backlog, Boeing is ramping up production to build 10 787s per month in Washington state and South Carolina by the end of the year. Boeing also said Friday it will open a third factory the Salt Lake City area to fabricate a tail piece for the plane.

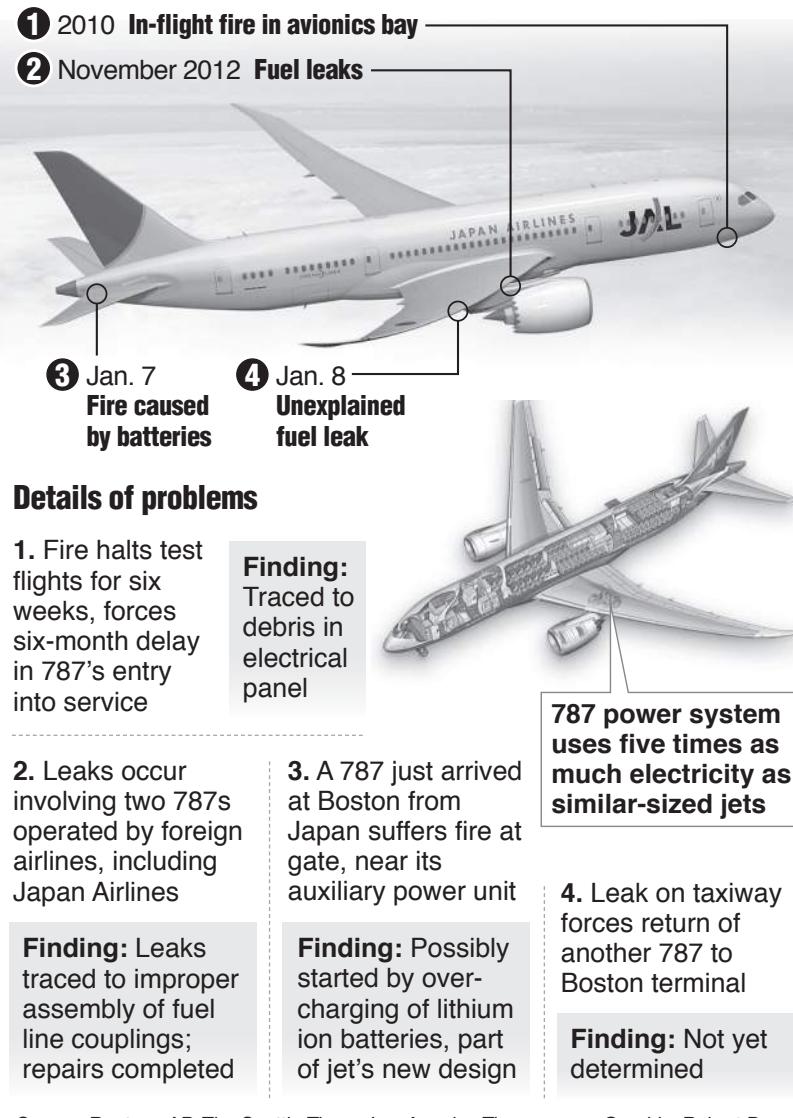
By comparison, it builds more than one 737, Boeing's best-seller, every day.

The company said in November that it had begun making five 787s per month. But if any major manufacturing changes are needed to fix the problems, it could fall further behind in deliveries.

Carter Leake, an analyst who follows the industry for BB&T Capital Markets, said the broad review raises the chances that the FAA will find other things to scrutinize at Boeing. "You are more exposed than normal to something else being opened up," he said.

Incidents with Boeing 787

Boeing's civilian flagship is an ultra-modern jet built mostly of carbon and epoxy composites instead of aluminum sheeting. It struggled through more than three years of development delays and now a recent series of troubling technical problems.



Source: Reuters, AP, The Seattle Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Boeing, Flight International

Graphic: Robert Dorrell
© 2013 MCT

Treasury: Trillion-dollar coin would not be legal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Forget about the government minting a \$1 trillion coin to solve its debt-limit crisis.

Treasury Department spokesman Anthony Coley said Saturday that neither his department nor the Federal Reserve believes the law can or should be used to produce such a coin to avoid a coming battle with Congress over government borrowing.

Some of President Barack Obama's liberal allies have been promoting the

Delta to start nonstop L.A.-Seattle service

Delta Air Lines announced Friday it would add three daily flights between Los Angeles and Seattle beginning April 8, 2013. Customers flying on Delta's new service will benefit from connection opportunities to a comprehensive trans-Pacific network.

Delta is rapidly growing Seattle as an Asian gateway and recently received approval for new service to Shanghai for summer 2013. The airline currently offers international service to Beijing and Osaka, Japan. Delta also has an extensive code share agreement with Alaska Airlines in Seattle, providing customers access to more than 50 domestic markets.

From Saipan and Guam, customers can enjoy one-stop service to Los Angeles and Seattle via Tokyo, Narita.

The new service will be operated by Delta Connection carrier SkyWest Airlines using 76-seat two-class CRJ900 regional jets. In addition to a first-class



DELTA

cabin, these aircraft are equipped with onboard Wi-Fi and Delta's snack, food for purchase and beverage offerings.

Delta currently operates the world's largest Wi-Fi-equipped fleet, and plans to introduce Wi-Fi onboard international widebody aircraft in 2013.

By summer 2013, all trans-Pacific flights will feature Delta's full flatbed product in Business Elite. In addition, Delta is in the process of upgrading its facilities at both Los Angeles International Airport and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport as part of its ongoing \$3 billion investment to improve products, services and facilities.

Delta is investing more than \$3 billion through 2013 in airport facilities and global products, services and technology to enhance the customer experience in the air and on the ground. Customers can check in for flights, print boarding passes, check bags and review flight status at delta.com. (**Delta**)

Hostess to sell Wonder bread to maker of Tastykake

NEW YORK (AP)—Hostess has found a new home for its most popular breads, including the iconic Wonder bread.

The bankrupt maker of Twinkies, Devil Dogs and other snack cakes said late Friday that it selected bids by rival bakery Flower Foods Inc. to buy six of its bread brands for \$390 million. Flower Foods, based in Thomasville, Ga., is best known for Tastykakes but also makes breads including Nature's Own and Cobblestone Mill.

Hostess is expected to announce buyers for its famed dessert cakes in coming weeks. The company has said a wide variety of parties have expressed interest in its brands, including national supermarket chains and the makers of brand name packaged foods.

Flower Foods was selected as the "stalking horse" bidder for the bread

brands. That means higher competing bids can still be made and the final deal must be approved in bankruptcy court. The company made two separate bids for the Hostess breads; a \$360 million bid for Wonder, Nature's Pride, Butter-nut, Home Pride and Merita, along with 20 bakeries and 38 depots. Another \$30 million bid was made for Beefsteak.

Taken together, Hostess said those breads generated just under \$1 billion in sales last year, with Wonder bread accounting for about half of that. Flower Foods, which generates about \$3 billion in annual sales, said it expects the deals to be accretive to its earnings this year. The company plans to finance the deal through a mix of cash and debt.

Hostess Brands Inc., based in Irving, Texas, announced in November that it was shutting down its business and selling its breads and snack cakes.

The company's demise came after years of management turmoil and turnover, with workers saying the company failed to invest its brands. Hostess filed for its second Chapter 11 bankruptcy in less than a decade this January, citing costs associated with its unionized workforce. It had about 18,500 employees when it announced that it was shutting down after it was unable to reach a deal on a new contract with striking workers.

Hostess CEO Gregory Rayburn, who was hired last year to help orchestrate a turnaround, said in a statement that negotiations were continuing with parties for its snack cakes and remaining bread brands. The company has stressed in bankruptcy court that it would need to move quickly in the sales to capitalize on the outpouring of nostalgia prompted by its shuttering.

Nation

Armstrong will answer ‘honestly’ during Oprah talk

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Lance Armstrong said he will answer questions “directly, honestly and candidly” during an interview with Oprah Winfrey next week. He will also apologize and make a limited confession to using performance-enhancing drugs, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Armstrong has spent more than a decade denying that he doped to win the Tour de France seven times. Without saying whether he would confess or apologize during the taping, Armstrong told The Associated Press in a text message early Saturday, “I told her (Winfrey) to go wherever she wants and I’ll answer the questions directly, honestly and candidly. That’s all I can say.”

A confession would be a stunning reversal for Armstrong after years of public statements, interviews and court battles from Austin to Europe in which he denied doping and zealously protected his reputation.

Armstrong was stripped of his titles and banned from the sport for life last year after the U.S. Anti-Doping agency issued a detailed report accusing him of leading a sophisticated and brazen drug program on his U.S. Postal Service teams that included steroids, blood boosters and a range

of performance-enhancing drugs.

Armstrong’s interview with Winfrey is not expected to go into great detail about specific allegations levied in the more than 1,000-page USADA report. But Armstrong will make a general confession and apologize, according to the person, who requested anonymity because there was no authorization to speak publicly. Several outlets had also reported that Armstrong was considering a confession.

Armstrong hasn’t responded to the USADA report or being stripped of his Tour de France titles. But shortly afterward, he tweeted a picture of himself on a couch at home with all seven of the yellow leader’s jerseys on display in a room at his home in Austin. He also agreed to be interviewed there, in what the Oprah Winfrey Network announced would be a “no-holds barred” session. That’s scheduled to be taped Monday and broadcast Thursday night.

“His reputation is in crisis,” said crisis management expert Mike Paul, president of New York-based, MGP & Associates PR. “Most people don’t trust what comes out of his mouth. He has to be truly repentant and humble.”

He also has to be careful. Armstrong is facing legal



This combination image made of file photos shows Lance Armstrong, left, on Oct. 7, 2012, and Oprah Winfrey, right, on March 9, 2012.

challenges on several fronts, including a federal whistle-blower lawsuit brought by former teammate Floyd Landis, who himself was stripped of the 2006 Tour de France title, accusing him of defrauding the U.S. Postal Service. The U.S. Justice Department has yet to announce whether it will join the case.

The London-based Sunday Times is also suing Armstrong to recover about \$500,000 it paid him to settle a libel lawsuit, and Dallas-based SCA Promotions has threatened to bring yet another lawsuit against Armstrong to recover more than \$7.5 million an arbitration panel awarded him as a bonus for winning the Tour de France.

The only lawsuit potentially impacted by a confession might be the Sunday Times case. Potential perjury charges stemming from his sworn testimony in the 2005 arbitration fight would not apply because of the statute of limitations. Armstrong was not deposed during a federal investigation that was closed last year without charges being brought.

Family quarrels add intrigue to lotto winner death

By JASON KEYSER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—In the week since news surfaced that a Chicago man was poisoned to death with cyanide just before he was to collect a lottery payout, surprising details about his convoluted family saga have trickled out daily.

Urooj Khan’s widow and siblings fought for months over the businessman’s estate, including the lottery check. His father-in-law owed tens of thousands of dollars in taxes.

His 17-year-old daughter from a previous marriage had moved out of her stepmom’s home and into his sister’s after his death. Then his ex-wife came forward, announcing in anguish that she hadn’t seen her daughter in more than a decade and hadn’t even known she was still in the U.S.

The slowly emerging family backstory and ever-expanding cast of characters have added layers of intrigue to a baffling case in which authorities have revealed little and everyone is wondering: Who did it?

The victim’s relatives hint at family squabbles. And Khan’s wife, Shabana Ansari, has endured clutches of reporters outside the family home and business, asking even whether it was a lamb or beef curry dinner she made for Khan on the night he died.

“Aaron’s death is not simply a personal tragedy. It is the product of a criminal justice system rife with intimidation and prosecutorial overreach,” the statement from his family and girlfriend said.

Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig, faculty director for Safra Center for Ethics where Swartz was once a fellow, wrote: “We need a better sense of justice. ... The question this government needs to answer is why it was so necessary that Aaron Swartz be labeled a ‘felon.’”

up Khan’s estate, including the \$425,000 in lottery winnings.

Ansari and other relatives have denied any role in his death and expressed a desire to learn the truth.

Authorities remain tight-lipped about who they may suspect. In the coming weeks, they plan to exhume the 46-year-old Indian immigrant’s body, which might allow investigators to determine exactly how he was poisoned and to gather more evidence for any possible trial.

Khan seemed to be living the American dream. He had come to the U.S. from his home in Hyderabad, India, in 1989, setting up several dry-cleaning businesses and buying into some real-estate investments.

Despite having foreseen gambling after a pilgrimage to Mecca in 2010, Khan bought a ticket in June. He jumped “two feet in the air” and shouted, “I hit a million,” he recalled at a lottery ceremony later that month.

He said winning the lottery meant everything to him and that he planned to use his winnings to pay off mortgages, expand his business and donate to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

He was just days from receiving his winnings when he died before dawn on July 20.

The night before, Khan ate dinner with his wife, daughter and father-in-law in their house in Chicago’s North Side neighborhood of West Rogers Park, home to many immigrants from India and Pakistan.

Cyanide, a deadly chemical

Cyanide, a toxic chemical that exists as a colorless gas or as a crystal, is a natural substance found in food and certain plants. It is also released by the combustion of synthetic materials. Cyanide is used in manufacturing of textiles and plastic, metal cleaning and pest extermination.

Use as a poison

Cyanide gas has been used in conventional warfare and poisoning for two millennia; it saw use by French and Austrian troops during World War I, and genocidal use by Germans during World War II; more recent incidents include the Jonestown Massacre in 1978 and the Tylenol poisonings in 1982

When a person is exposed

Person can be poisoned by breathing cyanide, ingesting it or absorbing cyanide through the skin; smoke inhalation from fires and cigarettes are common occurrences of nonindustrial exposure; cyanide kills quickly – within seconds of a lethal dose of gas and within minutes of ingestion

What happens in the body

Extent of poisoning depends on the amount, route and length of exposure; inhalation causes the most harm; once in the body, cyanide molecules kill cells by interfering with their respiration mechanism; when deprived of oxygen, a cell dies; if enough cells die, the victim dies; cyanide is more harmful to the heart and brain because those organs use a lot of oxygen

Signs and symptoms

By exposure amount

Small	Headache	Large	Loss of consciousness
Dizziness		Convulsions	
Weakness		Low blood pressure	
Restlessness		Slow heart rate	
Rapid breathing		Lung injury	
Rapid heart rate		Respiratory failure	leading to death
Nausea and vomiting			

Detection and treatment

Cyanide intoxication is diagnosed clinically and can sometimes be treated with antidotes; laboratories look for elevated levels of lactic acid and acids in body fluids; it is also detected through blood tests that show oxygen saturation

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Online activist, programmer Swartz dies in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Computer prodigy Aaron Swartz, who helped develop RSS and co-founded Reddit, has been found dead weeks before he was to go on trial on federal charges that he stole millions of scholarly articles in an attempt to make them freely available to the public.

Swartz, 26, hanged himself in his Brooklyn apartment, his family in Chicago confirmed in a statement Saturday. He was pronounced dead Friday evening at home in the Crown Heights neighborhood, Ellen Borakove, spokeswoman for New York’s chief medical examiner, said.

As a young teenager, Swartz helped create RSS, a family of Web feed formats used to gather updates from blogs, news headlines, audio and video for users. He co-founded the social news website Reddit, which was later sold to Conde Nast, as well as the political action group Demand Progress, which campaigns against Internet censorship.

A zealous advocate of public online access, Swartz was extolled Saturday by those who believed as he did. He was “an extraordinary hacker and activist,” the Electronic Frontier Foundation, an international nonprofit digital rights group based in California wrote in a tribute on its home page.

Asia

Landslide in hilly southern China kills 46 people



In this Jan. 11, 2013 photo provided by China's Xinhua News Agency, rescuers work at the mud-inundated debris after a landslide hit a village in Zhenxiong County, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

AP

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities have pulled out the bodies of all 46 people, including 19 children, who were buried by a landslide that swept through a village in the steep, snow-dusted mountains of southern China, state media said Saturday.

The landslide smothered 14 homes in Zhaojiagou village in Yunnan province on Friday, burying 46 people, the local county government of Zhenxiong said on its website.

The state-run China Central

Television said Saturday that all the bodies had been recovered.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported the identities of all of the victims, including 19 children and seven people who were more than 60 years old.

The Zhenxiong government said in a statement that the mudslide was caused by soil that had become heavily saturated from continuous rain and snow over the past month.

There were other factors, in-

cluding the slope's steepness, its poor soil composition and the impact from an earthquake, the government said.

The statement denied any direct relation between the disaster and mining activities in the area and concluded that the mudslide was a natural disaster.

Photos posted on the website of the Yunnan Daily, the official newspaper of the provincial government, showed rescuers in orange jumpsuits using construction machinery

to sift through massive piles of mud and earth. Behind them stood hillsides and pine trees covered in snow, signs of the unusually cold winter that has hit all of China.

Mudslides occur periodically in the region, which is prone to earthquakes and heavy rains. In a nearby county, 81 people died in an earthquake in September. A month later, a landslide buried a primary school, killing 18 students and one other person.

3 US men, SKorean among 7 dead in Philippine fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A fire swept through a hotel in a Philippine resort city early Friday, killing seven people, including three Americans, three Filipinos and a South Korean, authorities said.

The three American men and the South Korean man were found dead in separate rooms in the Dryden Hotel, a small two-story tourist hotel in Olongapo

city, a former U.S. naval base west of the capital, Manila, said police Senior Inspector Gil Arizo Domingo. The bodies of three Filipino women were found in separate parts of the hotel, he said.

Adjacent bars and another hotel were not affected by the three-hour blaze, which started at around 3 a.m., Domingo said.

The building's facade and ground floor are made of con-

crete, but the second floor is largely wooden. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Domingo identified one of the Americans as James Brigati of Kodiak, Alaska. The two others were identified as Patrick Burt and Joseph Valuso, whose hometowns were not immediately available. The South Korean man was identified as Kyung Ook-kim of Suwan City.

The victims' ages were not immediately available.

Olongapo, which is about 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Manila, is a popular beach destination, especially among American visitors, many of whom are former service members who were deployed there when the coastal city hosted one of the largest U.S. bases overseas. The base closed two decades ago.

Giant squid filmed in ocean depths for 1st time

TOKYO (AP)—After a hundred dives deep into the Pacific, scientists and broadcasters say they have captured video images of a giant squid in its natural habitat deep in the ocean for the first time.

The three-meter (nine-foot) invertebrate was filmed from a manned submersible during one of 100 dives in the Pacific last summer in a joint expedition by Japanese public broadcaster NHK, Discovery Channel and Japan's National Museum of Nature and Science.

NHK released photographs of the giant squid this week ahead of Sunday's show about the encounter. The Discovery Channel will air its program on Jan. 27.

The squid, which was inexplicably missing its two longest tentacles, was spotted in waters east of Chichi Island about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) south of Tokyo, NHK said. The crew followed it to a depth of 900 meters (2,950 feet).

Little is known about the creature because its harsh environment makes it difficult for scientists to conduct research. Specimens have washed ashore on beaches but never before have been filmed in their normal habitat deep in the ocean, researchers say.

Japanese zoologist Tsun-

emi Kubodera, who was on board the submersible at the time of the encounter, was able to lure the giant squid with a one-meter (three-foot) long diamond squid.

All the lights from the submersible were turned off while they waited. At a depth of 640 meters (2,100 feet), the giant squid appeared and wrapped its arms around the bait, eating it for over 20 minutes before letting go.

"What we were able to gain from this experience was the moment of the giant squid attacking its prey—we were able to record that," said Kubodera, who has been researching the giant squid since 2002.

Other scientists involved in the expedition this summer, which logged 400 hours of dives, were American oceanographer and marine biologists Edith Widder and Steve O'Shea from New Zealand.

NHK said a high-definition camera was developed for the project that could operate deep in the ocean and used a special wavelength of light invisible to the giant squid's sensitive eyes.

Kubodera said scientific research, technology and the right lure all came together to make the encounter possible, and that this case will shed more light on deep-sea creatures going forward.



In this television image made from video recorded in the summer of 2012 provided by NHK and Discovery Channel, a giant squid swims in the deep sea off Chichi island, Japan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tibetan sets self on fire, dies to protest China

BEIJING (AP)—An overseas rights group says a Tibetan man has died after setting himself on fire, marking the year's first self-immolation in protest of Chinese rule. London-based Free Tibet says the man, who was in his early 20s, set himself on fire Saturday in Xiahe county in western China's Gansu province and that his body was carried back to his home village nearby. The group did not provide the man's name. More than 90 Tibetans reportedly

have set themselves on fire since March 2011. Tibetan activists say the protests stem from frustration over China's stifling security presence, restrictions on religion and the demonization of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. China has accused the Dalai Lama of inciting the self-immolations.

Police official says 30 die in Nepal bus accident

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A police official says a bus veered off a mountain road in west Nepal leaving at least 30 people

dead and several more injured. Police official Ramesh Bahadur Dhanuk said the bus drove off the gravel road Saturday in a remote mountainous area near Chatiwan village. It was dark and the area was covered in thick fog. The bus rolled about 300 meters (300 yards) from the road. Rescuers and local villagers helped the pull the dead and injured from the wreckage. Among the dead were 22 men, seven women and a child.

Air pollution in Beijing goes off the index

BEIJING (AP)—People re-

fused to venture outdoors and buildings disappeared into Beijing's murky skyline on Sunday as the capital's air quality went off the index. The Beijing Municipal Environmental Monitoring Center said on its website that the density of PM2.5 particulates had surpassed 700 micrograms per cubic meter in many parts of the city. The World Health Organization considers a safe daily level to be 25 micrograms per cubic meter. PM2.5 are tiny particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in size or about 1/30th the average

width of a human hair. They can penetrate deep into the lungs, so measuring them is considered a more accurate reflection of air quality than other methods.

Pakistani Shiites refuse to bury 50 bomb victims

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—About 3,500 Pakistani Shiites protested in southwestern Pakistan for a second day on Saturday, blocking a main road with dozens of coffins of relatives killed in explosions to demand better security from the gov-

ernment. Police in the city of Quetta had earlier said that the protest had ended, but a prominent Shiite leader Ibrahim Hazara said it would continue until the city was handed over to the army and the provincial government was dismissed. Some 50 coffins blocked the road near a place where Shiites worship in Quetta, the capital of southwestern Baluchistan province. Shiites protested to condemn security lapses they say were responsible for Thursday's twin bombings of a billiards hall that killed 86 people.

World

Hundreds of French troops drive back Mali rebels

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The battle to retake Mali's north from the al-Qaida-linked groups controlling it began in earnest Saturday, after hundreds of French forces deployed to the country and began aerial bombardments to drive back the Islamic extremists.

At the same time, nations in West Africa authorized the immediate deployment of troops to Mali, fast-forwarding a military intervention that was not due to start until September.

The decision to begin the military operation was taken after the fighters, who seized the northern half of Mali nine months ago, decided earlier this week to push even further south to the town of Konna, coming within 50 kilometers (30 miles) of Mopti, the first town held by the government and a major base for the Malian military.

Many believe that if Mopti were to fall, the Islamists could potentially seize the rest of the country, dramatically raising the stakes. The potential outcome was "a terrorist state at the doorstep of France and Europe,"



In this Nov. 24, 2012 photo, soldiers from a Malian army special unit stand atop pick-ups mounted with machine guns, following a training exercise in the Barbe military zone, in Mopti, Mali. AP

French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Saturday.

France scrambled Mirage fighter jets from a base in neighbor-

boring Chad, as well as combat helicopters beginning the aerial assault on Friday. They have also sent in hundreds of troops

to the front line, as well as to secure the capital. In just 24 hours, French forces succeeded in dispersing the Islamists from

Konna, the town the fighters had seized in a bold advance earlier in the week, Le Drian said.

Malian military officials

said they were now conducting sweeps, looking for snipers.

"A halting blow has been delivered, and heavy losses have been inflicted on our adversaries, but our mission is not complete," French President Francois Hollande said after a three-hour meeting with his defense chiefs in Paris. "I reiterate that it consists of preparing the deployment of an African intervention force to allow Mali to recover its territorial integrity."

However, in a sign of how hard the battle ahead may be, the extremists succeeded in shooting down a French helicopter, the defense minister confirmed. The pilot died of his wounds while he was being evacuated. The Islamists are using arms stolen from ex-Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's arsenal, as well as the weapons abandoned by Mali's military when they fled their posts in the face of the rebel advance.

They have outfitted SUVs with high-caliber machine guns, and have released videos displaying their collection of anti-aircraft weapons.

Syrian army advances in strategic Damascus suburb

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syrian troops advanced in a strategic suburb of Damascus and bombarded other areas around the capital Saturday in a push to secure President Bashar Assad's seat of power as rebels make gains in the north.

A government official said regime forces had taken much of Daraya, an area on the edge of a major military air base just south of the capital, after nearly two months of heavy fighting that anti-regime activists say has killed dozens of people and uprooted tens of thousands more from their homes.

The announcement came a day after rebels and Islamic militants seeking to topple Assad

took full control of the northwestern Taftanaz air base in a significant blow to the military. The back-to-back declarations highlight the see-saw nature of the conflict in Syria, where one side's victories in one area are often followed by reverses in another.

In other violence, athletic champion Hisham Raqsha was shot to death in Damascus while on his way back home, according to the Observatory and state-run news agency SANA. SANA said Raqsha was the coach of Syria's walking team. His age and other details were not available.

Syrian troops have been battling since November to regain Daraya from the hands of anti-government fighters. The sub-

urb is flanked by the key districts of Mazzeh, which is home to the military air base of the same name, and Kfar Sousseh, which holds the government headquarters, the General Security intelligence agency head office and the Interior Ministry.

It also is less than 10 kilometers (six miles) from the People's Palace—one of three palaces in the capital used by Assad.

The government official told The Associated Press in Damascus that the army still faced "small pockets" of resistance but he expected the area to be cleared in a few days. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, acknowledged "the army has entered most of Daraya's neighborhoods." He added the number of casualties on both sides was high after weeks of fighting.

"Daraya is very important for the regime because the Mazzeh airport is a main artery for it," Abdul-Rahman said.

Daraya, which had a population of about 200,000 before the fighting, has been a stronghold of support for the rebels fighting the government since the start of the uprising in March 2011, posing a particularly grave threat to the capital.

CAIRO (AP)—A dozen masked attackers fired birdshot late Saturday at protesters who have camped outside Egypt's presidential palace in Cairo for the past month, wounding several along with security forces standing watch nearby, witnesses said. It was the latest in a series of shootings of protesters in Egypt.

Paramedic Mohammed Sultan put the total number of wounded in the attack at 15, including nine members of the security forces and six protesters.

The witnesses said attackers also threw Molotov cocktails at protesters' tents, setting some on fire. Footage on Egyptian TV stations showed more people coming to join the protests.

The sit-in was started Dec. 4 by opponents of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. They are demanding the annulment of Egypt's new Islamist-backed constitution. The document deeply polarized Egyptians but passed by a 64 percent "yes" vote in a referendum in which around 33 percent of voters participated. Critics called the process flawed.

The political conflict has been accompanied by street violence. At least 10 people died in clashes outside the palace on Dec. 5 that broke out when supporters of Morsi attacked the sit-in. Some were reportedly killed by gunfire.

On Dec. 31, gunmen shot and critically wounded a well-known activist at the site of another sit-in in downtown Cairo's

Tahrir square. Police said they arrested a cafe owner who told them that he fired on the square after people manning makeshift checkpoints there searched his car and shot at him.

The current attack comes two weeks before the anniversary of the Jan. 25 start of the 2011 uprising that overthrew Mubarak. Activists opposed to Morsi are expected to organize large protests that day.

Earlier Saturday, a Cairo court ordered a religious TV program hosted by a fiery preacher off the air on charges of libeling and defaming a well-known actress, one of three legal reverses that day suffered by Islamists in cases related to the media.

The court ruled that the program "In The Scale" be suspended for 30 days following a lawsuit by Elham Chahine. A widely circulated video clip shows the program's host, Abdullah Badr, accusing Chahine of practicing "prostitution" and "teaching Egyptians how to strip naked, make love and commit adultery."

"Go ask God for forgiveness for your scandals," he says in the August interview. Chahine's lawyer said in court that the actress had been exposed to "insults, cursing and humiliation."

Last month, Badr was sentenced to a year in jail over the same charges. The program is aired on el-Hafiz TV, one of several networks associated with the ultraconservative Salafi Islamist movement.

WORLD BRIEFS

French commando killed in Somalia hostage raid

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A raid to free a French intelligence agent held captive in Somalia for three years went horribly wrong, leaving 17 Islamists and at least one French commando dead in a mud-caked farming town deep in militant territory. In the chaotic aftermath of the firefight, the hostage's fate was unclear Saturday. The Islamists denied French claims that he was killed and said they had a new prisoner—a wounded French soldier. The botched rescue in East Africa came the same day French airstrikes in the West African nation of Mali targeted resurgent rebel Islamists. French officials said the two operations were unrelated, but stepped up

domestic counter-terror measures to protect public places and transportation networks.

Palestinian protesters evicted from West Bank site

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian protesters who pitched tents at a strategic West Bank site to protest plans to build a Jewish housing project there were evicted early Sunday, police said. Palestinian activists erected tents in the area known as E-1 on Friday saying they wanted to "establish facts on the ground" to stop Israeli construction in the West Bank. The Palestinian activists were borrowing a phrase and a tactic, usually associated with Jewish settlers, who believe establish-

ing communities means the territory will remain theirs once structures are built. Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police evicted about a hundred protesters from the site early Sunday morning after a court decision authorizing their removal. He did not know which court had allowed the eviction.

29 Belfast cops hurt in Catholic-Protestant clash

DUBLIN (AP)—Northern Ireland police fought day-and-night street battles with Protestant militants Saturday as a protest march to Belfast City Hall degenerated into riots when many marchers returned home to the Protestant east side. The Protestants, who have blocked streets daily since

Catholics on the council decided Dec. 3 to curtail the flying of the British flag, have frequently clashed with police in hopes of forcing politicians to overturn the decision. The street confrontations have stirred sectarian passions, particularly in Protestant east Belfast and its lone Catholic enclave, Short Strand, flashpoint for the most protracted rioting over the past six weeks. Saturday's violence began as police donning helmets, shields and flame-retardant suits tried to shepherd the British flag-bedeviled crowd past Short Strand, where masked and hooded Catholic men and youths waited by their doors armed with Gaelic hurling bats, golf clubs and other makeshift weapons.

Focus

When gunfire erupted at an Oregon shopping mall last week, Shaun Wik knew instantly what to do: Run for the door. And so, when Wik heard a man he believed to be the gunman shout "Get down on the ground!", the 20-year-old fled instead. And he lived.

In Arizona, on a January day two years ago, Mary Reed reacted the way her reflexes told her to when Jared Loughner opened fire on a meet-your-congresswoman gathering at her local Safeway. Reed shielded her then-17-year-old daughter, taking a bullet in the back.

They were two responses that came from very different places. For Reed, 54, it was purely instinctive. "I didn't think about anything," she said. "Mine was just that mammalian part of your mind that protects your child."

Wik's actions, though, weren't merely a fight-or-flight response. As a sophomore in high school, he had learned about the Columbine massacre and was taught to always have an escape route. When it mattered, he did.

Even as we struggle to figure out what happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School—who did what and why—the sad frequency of attacks by men with guns is creating a growing school of thought based on a simple premise: Be ready for the bullets. These mass shootings, but also bombings and terror attacks, have fueled a need, rational or not, to be prepared for the worst in whatever form it may come and know how to act when it does.

The city of Houston, one of the nation's largest, has even produced a video advising residents of what to do should they encounter an "active shooter." It is called "Run. Hide. Fight." and was released in the days after a gunman opened fire in July at a midnight "Batman" movie screening in Aurora, Colo., killing 12 people.

After a spate of school shootings that included the 1999 Columbine massacre in Colorado and the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech, schools heightened security, developed new guidelines for spotting potentially threatening individuals and implemented so-called "lockdown drills" to better help students know what to do in the event of an emergency.

And with Sandy Hook, it seems to have marched forward: Have we gone so far down this rabbit hole of mass murder in America that we must make sure our first-graders are ready with escape routes, too?

The response inside the school, authorities said, seemed to be a mix of the two notions of preparation and instinct—as teachers, a school psychologist, a principal risked, and in some cases lost, their lives to protect

How prepared can we be if evil strikes again?

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP NATIONAL WRITER



This undated file image provided by the City of Houston shows a scene from a video the city made to teach people how to react in the case of an active shooting situation using a short, three-word mantra: Run, hide, fight. AP

the children in their care.

Lockdown drills were part of the routine for the nearly 450 kindergartners through fourth-graders who attended Sandy Hook. Earlier this year, principal Dawn Hochsprung tweeted a picture of an evacuation exercise, showing little ones bundled in winter coats standing outside the school, quietly in line behind their teachers. Hochsprung died Friday at the gunman's hand.

And while nothing can ever prepare children for what happened at Sandy Hook, having a specific procedure to follow probably did help keep the youngsters calm and focused—and could potentially minimize the effects of the trauma down the road, said Stephen Brock, a professor of school psychology at California State University, Sacramento.

He recalled in recent days hearing a little girl in Connecticut on the radio "talking about how the teacher told them to go to the corner of the room away from the doors and windows so the animal couldn't get in."

"In her mind, it was probably a ... lion or a tiger," Brock said. Nevertheless, "they followed procedures that they had been drilled in before. By responding appropriately, it can make the situation appear less threatening if there's some-



thing that they can do to keep themselves safe."

Not unlike adult survivors of these awful tragedies, children also have their own innate tendencies that help influence their response. Even if they can't make their own decisions to hide or escape—they know instinctively who can: the adults around them, to whom they look for cues about how to behave.

Think of a child at a park who falls off the swing set, Brock said. If they look over at Mom and she's upset, chances are the child will get upset, too. If not, "They'd wipe ... off their knee and go out and play some more," he said. "Young kids are going to have their threat perception significantly dictated by how the adults around them are behaving."

Without their moms or dads to look to, the schoolchildren at Sandy Hook turned to their teachers for those cues. And

those teachers, in turn, became their saviors and heroes.

In the school library, clerk Mary Ann Jacob was working with a group of 18 fourth-graders when she heard a commotion over the school intercom. She called down to the main office and was told, "There's a shooting. Then she yelled "lock down" to her students before running across the hall to another classroom to tell them to lock down, as well.

"The kids know the routine, and the teachers know the routine, and everyone has a spot in their room where they're supposed to go to," she told reporters on the scene.

Eventually Jacob and three other adults ushered the children into a storage room and locked the door. They found crayons and paper, which they divvied up among the kids.

"They were asking, 'What's going on?' We said, 'We don't

know. Our job is to stay quiet. It may be a drill. It may not. But we're just going to stay here.'"

Jacob, of course, knew that it was no drill.

As soon as she heard the shots, first-grade teacher Kaitlin Roig rushed her 15 students into a tiny bathroom, using a bookshelf to barricade the door. She told her children to be "absolutely quiet." "I said, 'There are bad guys out there now. We need to wait for the good guys,'" Roig said in an interview with ABC News. "If they started crying, I would take their faces and say, 'It's going to be OK. Show



me your smile.'"

Just 29 years old herself, Roig drew on her training but, more so, basic humanity to give the children what she thought they needed to make it through.

"I'm thinking that I have to almost be their parent," she said. So she did what any parent would do. She told them how much she loved them. And she promised that everything would be OK.

"I wanted that to be one of the last things they heard," Roig said, "not the gunfire in the hallway."

University of Virginia forensic clinical psychologist Dewey Cornell expects the shooting at Sandy Hook to reinforce the need for door locks and other security measures at schools, or even prompt additional procedures. But Cornell, a leader in developing assessment guidelines to identify threatening individuals that are now used in

schools across the nation, worries about going too far.

"This case is going to distort people's perception of the safety of our schools, and that's really unfortunate," he said. "Elementary schools are extremely safe environments."

Aiden Licata's parents prepped him well before the attack last week at his school. If he ever encountered danger along the lines of a Columbine or an Aurora, they told him, do one thing: Run.

The 6-year-old did just that, having the presence of mind to grab his classmates and flee even after the shooter burst into his classroom and gunned down his teacher.

"He was very brave," Robert Licata said of his son. "He waited for his friends."

It's easy to imagine that similar conversations are happening all across the nation now, after Sandy Hook.

That, too, is just part of society today, said James Garbarino, a professor of humanistic psychology at Loyola University in Chicago who specializes in violence and trauma involving children.

Children have seen enough of these horrors on television news or the Internet or in fictionalized movies to know that something bad could happen to them, too—and to wonder how they should respond just in case. Parents, Garbarino said, should have the conversation as long as they can ensure their children are aware and informed without frightening them unnecessarily about a situation that they are, still, unlikely to ever face.

"What do you say? You say, 'It's really sad. This terrible thing happened. This young man went crazy, and he had guns. But I know your school is safe because the teachers are on the lookout.'"

In short, he said: "Do all that you can to foster their sense of security."

Brock said that doing drills with younger children, a common thing post-Columbine, has produced two important conclusions.

First, kids faced with the mock version of a stressful event respond appropriately. And second, developing that appropriate response can make them feel they have the power to keep themselves safe—and thus make the situation appear less threatening.

"I was kind of worried for a while there that by doing these new things called lockdown drills, we might be unnecessarily frightening kids and preparing them for an event that has a real low probability of occurring," Brock said. "Was the cost worth the benefit, especially since it's going to be so rare that we're going to have to employ these drills?"

"The answer," he said, "appears to be yes."

Health & Fitness

Hospitals crack down on workers refusing flu shots

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Patients can

refuse a flu shot. Should doctors and nurses have that right, too? That is the thorny question surfacing as U.S. hospitals increasingly crack down on employees who won't get flu shots, with some workers losing their jobs over their refusal.

Q&A: Scramble for vaccine as flu season heats up

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Missed flu-shot day at the office last fall? And all those “get vaccinated” ads? A scramble for shots is under way as late-comers seek protection from a miserable flu strain already spreading through much of the country.

Federal health officials said Friday that there is still some flu vaccine available and it's not too late to benefit from it. But people may have to call around to find a clinic with shots still on the shelf, or wait a few days for a new shipment.

Some questions and answers about flu vaccines:

Q: Are we running out of vaccine?

A: It's January—we shouldn't have a lot left. The traditional time to get vaccinated is in the fall, so that people are protected before influenza starts spreading.

Indeed, manufacturers already have shipped nearly 130 million doses to doctors' offices, drugstores and wholesalers, out of the 135 million doses they had planned to make for this year's flu season. At least 112 million have been used so far.

The nation's largest manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur, said Friday that it still has supplies of two specialty vaccines, a high-dose shot for seniors, and an under-the-skin shot for certain adults, available for immediate shipment. But it also is working to eke out a

limited supply of its traditional shots—some doses that it initially hadn't packaged into syringes, said spokesman Michael Szumera. They should be available late this month.

And MedImmune, the maker of the nasal spray vaccine FluMist, said it has 620,000 extra doses available.

Q: Can't they just make more?

A: No. Flu vaccine is complicated to brew, with supplies for each winter made months in advance and at the numbers expected to sell. Although health officials recommend a yearly flu vaccination for nearly everybody, last year 52 percent of children and just 39 percent of adults were immunized. Most years, leftover doses have to be thrown out.

Q: Should I still hunt for a vaccine?

A: It does take two weeks for full protection to kick in. Still, health officials say it's a good idea to be vaccinated even this late, especially for older people, young children and anyone with medical conditions such as heart or lung diseases that put them at high risk of dangerous flu complications. Flu season does tend to be worst in January and February, but it can run through March.

Q: I heard that a new flu strain is spreading. Does the vaccine really work?

A: Flu strains constantly evolve, the reason that people need an updated vaccine every year. But the CDC says this year's is a good match to

the types that are circulating, including a new kind of the tough H3N2 strain. That family tends to be harsher than other flu types—and health officials warned last fall that it was coming, and meant this winter would likely be tougher than last year's flu season, the mildest on record.

Q: But don't some people get vaccinated and still get sick?

A: Flu vaccine never is 100 percent effective, and unfortunately it tends to protect younger people better than older ones. But the CDC released a study Friday showing that so far this year, the vaccine appears 62 percent effective, meaning it's working about as well as it has in past flu seasons.

While that may strike some people as low, Frieden said it's the best protection available. “It's a glass 62 percent full,” he said. “It's well worth the effort.”

Q: What else can I do?

A: Wash your hands often, and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Viruses can spread by hand, not just through the air. Also, cough in your elbow, not your hand. When you're sick, protect others by staying home.

And people who are in those high-risk groups should call a doctor if they develop symptoms, added CDC spokesman Tom Skinner. They might be prescribed antiviral medication, which works best if given within the first 48 hours of symptoms.



Stephanie Dugger, 20, of Apache Junction, gets a flu shot from nurse Bhagwati Bhakta at Mollen Immunization Clinics in Scottsdale, Ariz. Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013.

a flu shot? The reasons vary: allergies to flu vaccine, which are rare; religious objections; and skepticism about whether vaccinating health workers will prevent flu in patients.

Dr. Carolyn Bridges, associate director for adult immunization at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says the strongest evidence is from studies in nursing homes, linking flu vaccination among health care workers with fewer patient deaths from all causes.

“We would all like to see stronger data,” she said. But other evidence shows flu vaccination “significantly decreases” flu cases, she said. “It should work the same in a health care worker versus somebody out in the community.”

Cancer nurse Joyce Gingerich is among the skeptics and says her decision to avoid the shot is mostly “a personal thing.” She’s among seven employees at IU Health Goshen Hospital in northern Indiana who were recently fired for refusing flu shots. Gingerich said she gets other vaccinations but thinks it should be a choice. She opposes “the injustice of being forced to put something in my body.”

other hospital staffers in four states have been fired for refusing, and several others have resigned, according to affected workers, hospital authorities and published reports.

In Rhode Island, one of three states with tough penalties behind a mandatory vaccine policy for health care workers, more than 1,000 workers recently signed a petition opposing the policy, according to a labor union that has filed suit to end the regulation.

Most doctors and nurses do get flu shots. But in the past two months, at least 15 nurses and

other hospital staffers in four states have been fired for refusing, and several others have resigned, according to affected workers, hospital authorities and published reports.

other hospital staffers in four states have been fired for refusing, and several others have resigned, according to affected workers, hospital authorities and published reports.

Personal Trainer

Too much of a good thing

The dangers of dehydration, such as fainting and heat-related illness, are well known, but drinking too much water can also be risky.



Hyponatremia

Drinking so much water that blood becomes diluted, its sodium level drops

Usual pattern: Person exercises 4 hours or more, drinks water heavily, does not consume salt

Symptoms in a life-threatening case

- Seizure
- Respiratory arrest

How to play it safe

USA Track & Field's guidelines for people running for several hours



Drink water or electrolyte sports drink if you feel thirsty

8-10 oz. (250-300 ml) of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes while exercising



© 2013 MCT

Eat salted food or drink electrolyte beverage to maintain salt level

Avoid salt tablets; they dissolve slowly, irritate stomach

Source: Men's Fitness, USA Track & Field Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Do not take ephedra, which can increase risk of heat-related illness

Do not take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for 24 hours before race or less than 6 hours afterward



Lung cancer scans backed for older, heavy smokers

By MARILYNNE MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

After decades of qualms about lung cancer screening, the American Cancer Society says there now is enough evidence to recommend it, but only for current and former heavy smokers ages 55 to 74 and after a frank talk about risks and benefits.

The new guidelines, announced Friday, are a cautious but exciting step against the world's most deadly cancer, doctors who wrote the advice say.

It is based on a big study in 2011 that found annual, low-dose CT scans—a type of X-ray—could cut the chances of dying of lung cancer by 20 percent and from any cause by nearly 7 percent.

The study only included older people who smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for 30

years or the equivalent, such as two packs a day for 15 years. Whether screening would help others isn't known, so scans were not advised for them.

“We’re trying to make sure we restrict harm that might come from screening,” such as unnecessary biopsies and follow-up procedures when scans falsely suggest cancer, said Dr. Richard Wender, family medicine chief at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Lung cancer is fairly rare before age 55, so “the benefits of screening are going to be less if you start at a younger age.”

Wender, a former Cancer Society president, led the guidelines panel. Three of its 20 members have ties to companies that make cancer treatment or imaging products. The scans cost \$100 to as much as \$400 and are not covered by Medicare or private insurers.

Some of the most influential guidelines come from a government-appointed panel—the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force—but it hasn't considered lung cancer screening since 2004, when it said there wasn't enough evidence to recommend for or against it. An update is in the works now.

Life & Style

Brooklyn resident wins the Miss America crown

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 23-year-old blonde from Brooklyn, N.Y., won the Miss America crown Saturday night after responding to a question about armed guards in schools, saying she opposed fighting violence with violence.

En route to her victory in the Las Vegas pageant, Mallory Hagan also tap danced to James Brown's "Get Up Off of That Thing," strutted down the runway in an asymmetrical white gown, and donned a revealing black string bikini.

She defeated Miss South Carolina Ali Rogers, who took second, and Miss Oklahoma Alicia Clifton, who finished third.

She wins a \$50,000 college scholarship and gets the crown for one year. Her platform, the issue she will promote during her reign, is fighting child sexual abuse. She said the issue is close to her heart because the women in her family themselves grappled with sexual abuse.

The aspiring cosmetic company executive has been competing in beauty pageants for a decade, starting as a teen in the Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen contest. She competed for Miss New York in 2010 and 2011 before winning last year.

She is the first Miss America from Brooklyn and the fourth from New York state. The previous winner from that state was actress Vanessa Williams,



Miss New York Mallory Hagan reacts as she is crowned Miss America 2013 on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, in Las Vegas.

who became the first black winner when she took the crown in 1984.

Hagan said she moved to New York from Alabama with less than \$1,000 in her pocket. She lives in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn and studies communications at the

Fashion Institute of Technology.

She was good enough during preliminary Miss Universe contests to be chosen as one of 16 semifinalists who moved on to compete in the main show. Her bid lasted through swimsuit, evening wear, and talent competitions that saw cuts after

each round.

Moments before she won, "Good Morning America" weatherman Sam Champion asked her if schools should hire armed guards in the wake of the Newtown, Conn. shooting.

"I don't think the proper way to fight violence is with vio-

lence," she replied. "I think the proper way is to educate people on guns and the ways we can use them properly. We can lock them up, we can have gun safety classes, we can have a longer waiting period."

Hagan defeated several competitors who grabbed headlines this year because of their backstories.

Miss District of Columbia plans to undergo a preventive double mastectomy to reduce her risk of breast cancer, which killed her mother and grandmother.

Miss Montana was the pageant's first autistic contestant. Miss Iowa has Tourette's syndrome. And Miss Maine lost more than 50 pounds before winning her state crown.

During the opening number, when all the queens gave short quips about their states, Hagan referenced last year's super-storm, saying, "Sandy may have been swept away our shores but never our spirit."

She is expected to spend her title reign on a nationwide

speaking tour and raising money for the Children's Miracle Network, the organization's official charity.

The 92nd Miss America annual show held this year at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip is the culmination of a week of preliminary competitions and months of preparations for the titleholders from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The pageant, which started as little more than an Atlantic City bathing suit revue, broke viewership records in its heyday and bills itself as one of the world's largest scholarships programs for women.

But like other pageants, the show has struggled to stay relevant as national attitudes regarding women's rights and civil rights have changed.

More recently, the rise of reality television has provided a superabundance of options for Americans interested in seeing attractive young people in com-

Golden Globe nominees celebrate at tea party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Jon Bon Jovi, Hugh Jackman and other Golden Globe nominees celebrated their good fortune with a cup of tea.

They were the guests of honor at the annual British Academy of Film and Television Arts annual Awards Season Tea Party at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles, where the agenda was merely to mingle with the Hollywood elite while nibbling on finger sandwiches and scones

with cream.

Sally Field milled about with her awards-season date, her youngest son, Sam Greisman. Jackman and Bon Jovi talked shop. Lawrence collected kudos from her colleagues, "Life of Pi" director Ang Lee posed for photos and Harvey Weinstein, whose namesake company produced awards-season contenders such as "Silver Linings Playbook" and "Django Unchained," smiled broadly as he worked the room.

David O. Russell, who showed up wearing his trademark white sneakers, complimented a BAFTA member on his cologne.

"You smell really good," the "Silver Linings Playbook" director said. "What are you wearing?"

Other guests at the afternoon affair included Ben Affleck, "Zero Dark Thirty" director Kathryn Bigelow, Amanda Seyfried, Jacki Weaver, Olivia Munn, "Les Misérables" direc-

tor Tom Hooper, Chris Tucker, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and filmmaker Ava DuVernay.

The pre-Globes event was among many dotting the city Saturday, and one of three held at the hotel. Tea party guests could also get glamorous at the InStyle Beauty Lounge or gifted at the HBO Luxury Lounge.

The 70th annual Golden Globe Awards will be presented Sunday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel and broadcast live on NBC.

Kimmel says he expects to run 3rd in late night

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel says he expects to settle in at third place in the ratings behind Jay Leno and David Letterman, even as one week of direct competition suggests a healthy competition.

There were backstage smiles at Kimmel's Los Angeles studio Friday after Nielsen ratings showed the ABC comic had his largest audience ever on Thursday. This is the first week for "Jimmy Kimmel Live" in the high-profile 11:35 p.m. Eastern (0335 GMT) time slot, directly competing with Leno on NBC and Letterman on CBS.

Kimmel announced that Matt



Kimmel

Damon would be a guest on his Jan. 24 show—really. Damon's been the subject of a long-running joke, with Kimmel frequently joking at the end of his show that he ran out of time and couldn't get Damon on the air as planned.

"People like the drama of late night—'Who will be the king of late night?'" Kimmel said. "Johnny Carson retired with the crown. There will be no king of late night anymore."

Kimmel finished second behind Leno in viewership Tuesday, his first night in the time

slot, and third the next two nights. ABC looks most closely at the 18- to 49-year-old demographic, however. Among those youthful viewers, Kimmel finished second to Leno on Tuesday, virtually tied with him Wednesday, and won handily Thursday, Nielsen said. He gained in young viewers each of the three nights.

The numbers are close. Among all viewers Thursday, Leno was seen by 3.4 million people, Letterman by 3.29 million and Kimmel by 3.17 million, Nielsen said.

"It's an encouraging start for them," said Brad Adgate, researcher at Horizon Media. "This is something where they aren't looking at the first week. They're looking at a year from now, three years from now, five years from now when Leno and Letterman may leave their desks."

Kimmel, whose show spent a decade airing a half hour later, said he didn't explicitly push ABC to move him up. But he did let his bosses know he was ready. Asked when he let them know, he joked, "probably the first night."

The later time slot had benefit, though.

Experts identify new Mozart portrait

VIENNA (AP)—A round-faced young man with a thick head of hair depicted in a tiny 18th century portrait that had the experts puzzled for centuries now has a name—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Researchers at Salzburg's Mozarteum museum announced Friday that they have definitely identified the person in the picture as the musical genius.

And it's not any likeness either. They say that of 14 known



This undated photo provided by the International Mozarteum Foundation shows Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Britney Spears confirms she and X Factor are splitting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears said Friday she has made the “difficult decision” to leave Fox’s “The X Factor” after one season.

In a statement, the pop singer said she had an incredible time

working on the singing contest but that it was time to get back into the studio to record.

It was widely reported Thursday that Spears and “X Factor” were parting ways after a season in which the show’s ratings fell

and Spears received lackluster reviews as a panelist. Fellow panelist Antonio “L.A.” Reid previously announced he was leaving, giving creator-executive producer Simon Cowell two spots to fill.

Fox has been informed of Spears’ decision, her publicist, Jeff Raymond said Friday. Fox spokeswoman Gaude Paez confirmed that Spears is leaving the show and said the network had no further statement.

Cowell and fellow producers are discussing replacements for Spears and Reid and will be conferring with Fox, said a person who is familiar with the situation but lacked authority to comment publicly and insisted on anonymity.

Demi Lovato is expected to return as a panelist, joining Cowell and the newcomers.

Spears, 31, said she was proud of the young “X Factor” contestants she helped counsel, but that watching them on stage each week made her miss performing.

“I can’t wait to get back out there and do what I love most,” she added.

When “X Factor” returns for its third season this fall, Cowell will attempt once again to match the success of the U.K. series he brought to America. After season one, Cowell replaced panelists Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger and host Steve Jones, but Spears and Lovato didn’t provide the hoped-for ratings spark, with Spears getting the brunt of criticism from observers.

She received a reported \$15 million for one season’s work.

Although the series has failed

to match Cowell’s bold pre-debut predictions, and certainly hasn’t eclipsed sister Fox show

“American Idol,” it has helped shore up the network’s fall schedule.

Spears’ fiance resigns as co-conservator

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears capped a week of changes Friday with a judge accepting the resignation of her one-time fiance from the conservatorship that oversees many of her personal and financial matters.

Jason Trawick submitted his resignation and it was accepted Friday by Superior Court Judge Reva Goetz, who did not elaborate on a reason for the agent’s exit from the case less than a year after he joined it.

Spears and Trawick have reportedly broken up, although attorneys for the singer’s father and another co-conservator, Andrew Wallet, declined to discuss their relationship Friday. Emails sent to Spears’ publicist, Jeff Raymond, were not immediately returned.

Spears has been under a court-supervised conservatorship since February 2008, with her father and Wallet having control over numerous aspects of her personal life. The case was opened after several incidents of erratic behavior by the pop singer and a pair of hospitalizations, but Spears has recovered and

recently served as a judge on Fox’s “The X Factor.”

Spears ended that relationship this week, informing the network she would not return next season and planned to focus on her music.

Trawick and Spears were engaged in December 2011 and he was appointed a co-conservator along with her father, Jamie, in April. Jamie Spears met with Goetz for about an hour Friday but left before a hearing where Trawick’s resignation was announced.

Trawick has served as Spears’ agent, and the pair started dating in 2009.

The celebrity website TMZ reported Friday that that the pair had broken up.

Trawick did not have authority over Spears’ finances, which have recovered since her public meltdown. Goetz recently reviewed and approved of an accounting that showed Spears ended 2010 with more than \$27.5 million in assets, including nearly \$15 million in cash.

Attorneys handling the case are expected to file updated financial statements in the coming months.

Globe-nominated foreign filmmakers discuss craft

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The makers of three Golden Globe- and Oscar-nominated foreign films shared the secrets of their craft—and admiration for one another—at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association’s 10th annual Foreign Film Symposium.

Oscar-nominated Swedish filmmaker Lasse Hallstrom moderated the panel featuring “Kon-Tiki” directors Espen Sandberg and Joachim Roenning of Norway, “A Royal Affair” director Nikolaj Arcel of Denmark and Austrian director Michael Haneke, whose film “Amour” also earned Oscar nods for best picture, director, actress and original screenplay this week.

“It’s been a very good week,” said Richard Stone, who has frequently painted members of the royal family. “So often with official portraits they can be rather stiff and starchy, but this has a lovely informality about it, and a warmth to it.”

In any case, Emsley appeared to have won over his most important audience. Kate, who was with her husband, Prince William, at the gallery earlier Friday, called the portrait “just amazing.” William liked it too, saying it was “absolutely beautiful.”

camera rolling between takes? Do you act out the scenes in your head before directing your actors?

Haneke said he rarely rehearses his actors and doesn’t allow them to improvise. Through storyboarding, he knows exactly where the performers need to be in each scene.

“Because I wrote it myself, I have to, in a way, act it out,” he said. “Otherwise there would be nothing.”

The other filmmakers said they also keep rehearsals to a minimum to preserve the spontaneity of the scenes.

Asked which contemporary filmmakers they admire, the 40-year-old Arcel pointed to Haneke and said, “This guy.”

Sandberg, 41, and Roenning, 40, also said they’ve been inspired by their colleagues on stage.

“I’m sitting between Haneke and Hallstrom,” Roenning said incredulously.

Haneke refused to answer, because he said whenever he neglects to mention would be upset.

The 70th annual Golden Globe Awards will be presented Sunday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel and broadcast live on NBC.

Critics divided over Duchess of Cambridge portrait

LONDON (AP)—The Duchess of Cambridge seems to like her first official portrait, which is lucky for the artist. Many critics don’t.

Paul Emsley’s portrait of the former Kate Middleton shows the 31-year-old royal against a dark background, her lips pursed into a wry smile, with an ethereal light against her face and hair. Her pale complexion brings out the fine lines under the eyes, and the light adds a hint of silver to her rich brown hair.

Shortly after the portrait was unveiled Friday at the National Portrait Gallery in London, critics began grousing.

“It’s a great, great opportunity missed,” British Art Journal editor Robin Simon said. “The best thing you can say about it is that she doesn’t actually look like that.”

In a telephone interview, Simon said that Kate’s nose was too large and that the painting drained the duchess of her sparkle.

Kate “transmits a sense of joie-de-vivre,” he said. “This is dead, dead, dead.”

Guardian arts writer Charlotte Higgins picked up on that theme, saying the portrait had a “sepulchral gloom” about it.

“Kate Middleton is—whatever you think of the monarchy and all its inane surrounding pomp—a pretty young woman with an infectious smile, a



Members of the media talk to artist Paul Emsley, center right, in front of his newly-commissioned portrait of Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London, Friday, Jan. 11, 2013.

cascade of chestnut hair and a healthy bloom,” she wrote in a post to her newspaper’s website. “So how is it that she has been transformed into something unpleasant from the ‘Twilight’ franchise?”

Emsley told reporters at the opening that it was always going to be tough painting Kate, who sat for the portrait last year, before she became pregnant.

“A person whose image is so pervasive, for an artist it is really difficult to go beyond that and find something which is

original,” he said. “You have to rely on your technique and your artistic instincts to do that and I hope I’ve succeeded.”

Royal portraits tend to veer between the staid and the controversial. Lucian Freud’s 2001 portrait of Queen Elizabeth II remains a particularly notorious example, with some describing the heavy, severe painting of the monarch as deeply unflattering and others calling it groundbreaking.

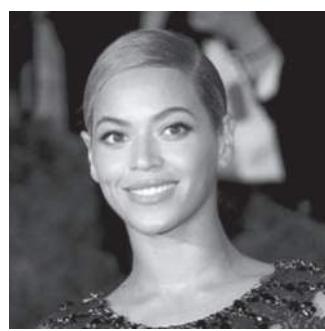
In fairness to Emsley, some artists had praise for his work.

Top talent lined up for Obama's inaugural events

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is drawing a list of top performers for his inaugural festivities, including a massive ball expected to draw more than 35,000 revelers.

Katy Perry, Smokey Robinson, Usher, Alicia Keys and Brad Paisley are among the stars announced Friday to sing at Obama's inaugural balls Jan. 21 and a children's concert on Jan. 19. Also signed up are Marc Anthony, Stevie Wonder, John Legend and the cast of "Glee."

The concert and the two official inaugural balls are being held at the Washington Convention Center over a holiday weekend when Obama begins his second term. The performers join Beyoncé, Kelly Clarkson and James Taylor, already announced for Obama's swearing in ceremony Jan. 21 on the West



This May 7, 2012 file photo shows Beyoncé Knowles at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala benefit in New York. Beyoncé will sing the national anthem at President Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony.

Front of the Capitol.

Other event performers include pop-rap foursome Far East Movement, Grammy-nominated pop-rock trio fun., R&B boy band Mindless Behavior, rapper Nick Cannon and

youth gospel choir Soul Children of Chicago. Inaugural organizers aren't saying yet which performances will be at which convention center event.

Robinson told The Associated Press he will be at The Inaugural Ball with his own band, but he is not sure yet which songs he'll sing. Robinson said he's always happy to perform when the president asks because he's so proud of the first family.

"I've been in the White House many, many, many times for many presidents and this is the first time for me that it's really felt like when I go to the White House or something like that, it feels like you're going to your family's," Robinson said. "It feels like you're going home because that's how they treat me and that's how they treat my wife."

While Obama has cut the

Obama won't support building 'Death Star'

WASHINGTON (AP)—A "Death Star" won't be a part of the U.S. military's arsenal any time soon.

More than 34,000 people have signed an online petition calling on the Obama administration to build the "Star Wars" inspired super-weapon to spur job growth and bolster national

defense.

But in a posting Friday on the White House website, Paul Shawcross, an administration adviser on science and space,

says a Death Star would cost too much to build—an estimated \$850 quadrillion—at a time the White House is working to reduce the federal budget.

Besides, Shawcross says, the Obama administration "does not support blowing up planets."

The U.S., Shawcross points out, is already involved in several out-of-this-world projects, including the International Space Station, which is currently orbiting Earth with a half-dozen astronauts.

Jones, 19, plays the "half" in the popular comedy, portraying actor Jon Cryer's son.

Jones, who reportedly makes \$350,000 an episode, later said he was sorry if his remarks in an interview with a religious organization showed an indifference to his colleagues or a lack of appreciation for his opportunity. He didn't publicly change his evaluation of the comedy, which is heavy on sexual jokes and innuendo.

Tassler indicated she was giving Jones some slack for his age, saying her own 24-year-old son said some things between 19 and 24 that she wished he hadn't.

"This is a Carrie who isn't sure of her creative voice, her sexuality, her way of dressing," Robb points out. "I think it will be fun for the original 'Sex and the City' audience to see what Carrie was like in her younger days—what made her fall in love with New York and why her relationships are so riddled with problems." She laughs affectionately.

"And it introduces the franchise to a whole new audience that's never seen 'Sex and the City.'"

near Tioga, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) north of Dallas. Travis still faces a retaliation charge for allegedly threatening officers.

Marseille inaugurated as Europe's culture capital

MARSEILLE, France (AP)—The French city of Marseille has been inaugurated as the European culture capital for 2013. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault addressed crowds Saturday at the new Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations, designed by Rudy Ricciotti for this year's

celebration. The flagship arts center, situated on Marseille's old port, will promote shared culture from the Mediterranean basin. Barroso says "Marseille Provence 2013 is a perfect illustration of dialogue between peoples." Other projects for Marseille's year in the spotlight include a pedestrian district around the old port.

Olivia Wilde and Jason Sudeikis engaged to marry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Olivia Wilde and Jason Sudeikis are getting married. A spokeswoman for Wilde confirmed Saturday that the couple is engaged. Joy

number of inaugural balls lower than any president since Dwight Eisenhower was first sworn into office in 1953, the two celebrations will be elaborate. The larger of the events, simply called The Inaugural Ball, is expected to draw more than 35,000 in a reflection of the quadrennial demand in Washington to toast the president in person on such a historic day.

CBS welcoming actor Angus Jones back to comedy

PASADENA, California (AP)—The teenage actor Angus T. Jones is expected back at "Two and a Half Men" next week, with CBS accepting his apology for calling the popular comedy "filth" and "very inappropriate."

"We move on," CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler said on Saturday. After a break for the holidays, actors on "Two and a Half Men" are about to begin rehearsals for new episodes.

Jones, 19, plays the "half" in the popular comedy, portraying actor Jon Cryer's son.

Jones, who reportedly makes \$350,000 an episode, later said he was sorry if his remarks in an interview with a religious organization showed an indifference to his colleagues or a lack of appreciation for his opportunity. He didn't publicly change his evaluation of the comedy, which is heavy on sexual jokes and innuendo.

Tassler indicated she was giving Jones some slack for his age, saying her own 24-year-old son said some things between 19 and 24 that she wished he hadn't.

"The bottom line is cooler heads prevailed," she said. "He has been a beloved member of that cast for years and years and years and he issued a public apology. At the end of the day, they want him to come back, he wants to come back."

Tassler also said CBS, show creator Chuck Lorre and the production company, Warner Bros., are all interested in seeing "Two and a Half Men" continue beyond this season. The actors are still not signed beyond this season.

Asking son's playmate to go home is no fun for mother

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My son "Timmy" has a playmate from down the street I'll call "Bobby." I'm happy that Timmy has someone to play with, but Bobby's parents haven't taught him good manners. Even though Bobby is only 6, he does not have a curfew. He has stayed at our house as late as 10:30 at night without his parents coming after him or calling to ask me to send him home.

Also, Abby, I did not invite Bobby to my 4-year-old daughter's birthday party because it was for her and her little friends. Well, Bobby, his older sister and a friend of hers showed up anyway! I didn't have enough favors for the extra children. I was able to stretch the food, but I was aggravated that his parents didn't have enough respect for me to stop their children from crashing my daughter's birthday.

I was brought up to leave my friends' homes when it was dinnertime, but these children don't want to go home even when I ask them to leave so we can have our dinner. They beg to stay and eat with us.

How can parents be so inconsiderate as to allow their children to come over anytime and stay as long as they like? I want it to stop, but I don't want to cause hard feelings. How do I handle this?

IMPOSED UPON IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR IMPOSED UPON: There is usually a good reason why children don't want to go home. Has it occurred to you that Bobby's parent(s) may be drunk, stoned or absent?

If a parent is reachable, explain to him or her that at your house you have a regular dinner hour and that it is family time. Guests must go home then, unless they have been specifically invited to stay. Also, after-dinner playtime is over at 8:30 p.m. and guests must go home by then—but not walk alone after dark.

It may turn out that your son's playmate is a latchkey kid or being neglected. If the latter is true, then Child Protective Services should be notified.

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who is more than 50 pounds overweight. It didn't happen overnight, and I completely understand that I am the only person to blame for it. I gained the weight because of years of unhealthy eating, lack of exercise and the birth of my two daughters over a period of six years.

Recently I decided to do something about it. I took the initiative, adopted a sensible diet and have started walking two to three miles a day with my friend, "Shannon."

Abby, on almost every occasion, Shannon and I are made fun of as we walk. It's embarrassing and extremely discouraging. We realize we are overweight. We don't need people calling attention to us or making fun of the "fat girls."

Won't you please let your readers know that struggling with weight loss is hard enough without adding the fear and anxiety of being made a laughingstock while exercising?

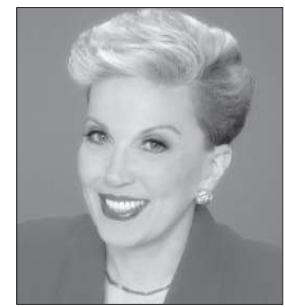
LOSING SLOWLY IN OHIO

DEAR LOSING SLOWLY: I applaud you for recognizing you had a challenge and rising (literally) to meet it. When I see someone who's carrying extra weight walking or working out at a gym, what comes to mind is, "There's a person who is doing something positive about his or her problem."

Because a jackass brays doesn't mean you have to take it to heart. The individuals making those unkind remarks are trying to make themselves feel superior by putting you down. Please don't let it discourage you. You're on the right track.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby*, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



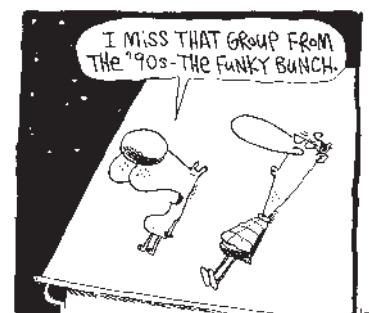
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

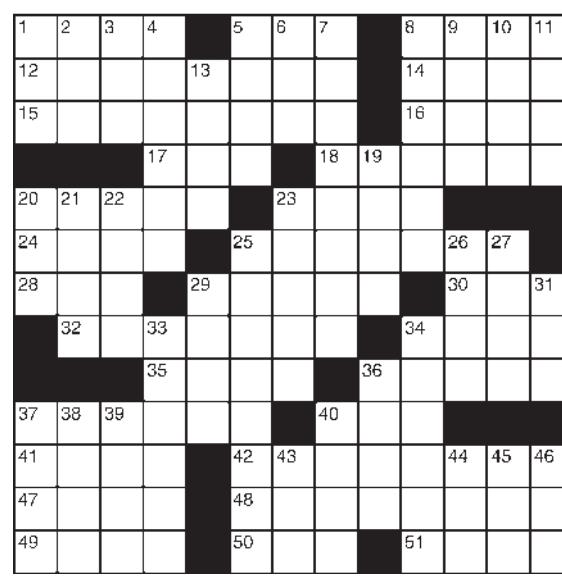


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		36	Tending	22	Sly		
1	Dillon or Damon	37	Lecherous observer	3	Roman X	23	Carroll
5	Greek vowel	40	— carte	4	Doubly thick	25	heroine
8	Heap	41	Off the base, for short	5	Sicilian volcano	26	"Arrivederci"
12	Cooling drink	42	Proclaim	6	Sleuth, briefly	27	Ireland
14	Smell	43	Toy block	7	212 or 718, e.g.	29	Mentor
15	Execrate	44	name	8	Allergy sufferer's woe	31	Beer cousin
16	Island garlands	45	Washing-ton	9	Concept	33	Spotted wildcat
17	Sch. org.	46	Monu-ment, e.g.	10	Pork cut	34	Emotional upset
18	Not quite upright	47	Rewrite, maybe	11	Formerly, formerly	36	Trudge on
20	Big name in California	48	Hot tub	12	Car	37	Crooner Jerry
22	wines	49	Chills and fever	13	Actress Elisabeth	38	As yet unpaid
24	Do as you're told	50	Deity	14	Deity	39	Boo-Boo's companion
25	Wide ruffle	DOWN	Central	15	Some-what	40	— Karenina
28	Conk out	1	Central	16	Central	43	Siesta
29	Lead the way	2	Central	17	Central	44	Run-down horse
30	Playwright Levin	3	Central	18	Central	45	French vineyard
32	Beat decisively	4	Central	19	Central	46	— out a living
34	Follow closely	5	Central	20	Central		
35	Manitoba native	6	Central	21	Central		
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Friday's answer 1-11



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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6	4	7	2		8			
3	6	9		5				
7			9					

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	1	4	8	7	3	5	9
7	3	8	1	5	9	6	2	4
4	9	5	3	2	6	1	8	7
5	7	3	6	4	2	8	9	1
8	1	9	7	3	5	4	6	2
6	4	2	8	9	1	5	7	3
9	2	4	5	1	8	7	3	6
3	5	6	2	7	4	9	1	8
1	8	7	9	6	3	2	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

1/14

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KATE MIDDLETON IS PREGNANT

Solution: 7 letters

S	E	M	L	S	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	R	N	N
T	S	L	A	A	S	T	A	G	E	O	O	U	O	E
N	Y	E	P	J	Y	E	R	O	N	B	T	D	I	W
E	T	T	T	U	E	O	N	A	A	R	N	G	Y	S
R	I	S	R	N	O	S	R	L	I	O	H	N	N	S
A	N	T	E	I	U	C	T	E	L	T	O	A	R	D
P	R	J	H	M	H									

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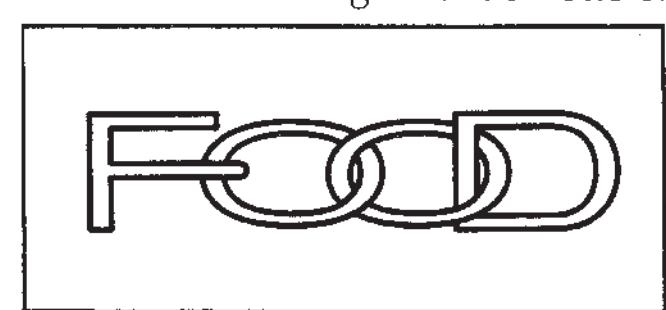
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WHATZIT?

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Ravens top Broncos in double OT, 38-35



DENVER (AP)— Welcome to NFL immortality, Joe Flacco.

Somewhere up there in the all-time playoff archives near the “Hail Mary” by Staubach and the “Immaculate Reception” by Franco now lives the “Flacco Fling” by the Baltimore Ravens quarterback.

One big throw down the sideline, 70 make-or-break yards on a wing and a prayer - a high, arcing touchdown pass that soared through the icy air, flew over two defenders, landed in the hands of Jacoby Jones, saved the game for Baltimore and kept Ray Lewis’ 17-year career going at least one more week.

The record will show Justin Tucker kicked a 47-yard field goal 1:42 into the second overtime Saturday to give the Ravens a 38-35 victory over Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos. But it was so much more. It was a crazy, back-and-forth instant classic of an AFC divisional playoff game. The highlight? That would be Flacco’s game-tying touchdown to Jones on third-and-3 from the 30 with 31 seconds left in regulation and no timeouts.

“At that point,” Flacco said, “you have to start taking shots. You have to get a little lucky.”

And while Flacco gets to celebrate that throw, Manning will have a long offseason to think about a really bad one.

On Denver’s second possession of overtime, he stopped and threw across his body to the middle of the field and into the arms of Ravens cornerback Corey Graham at Denver’s 45. Baltimore (12-6) ran five plays and gained 16 yards before Tucker sailed his winning kick inside the right upright.

The Manning throw, intended for Brandon Stokley, was one that quarterbacks from junior high to the pros are advised not to make. It’s a throw that unraveled all the good Manning has accomplished during this, his comeback season from neck surgery during which he threw for 37 touchdowns and led the Broncos (13-4) to top seeding in the AFC.

“Yeah, bad throw,” Manning said. “Probably the decision wasn’t great either. I thought I had an opening, and I didn’t get enough on it, and I was trying to make a play and certainly a throw I’d like to have back.”

Lewis, who led the Ravens with 17 tackles over this nearly 77-minute game in 13-degree weather, kneeled down to the ground and put his helmet on the rock-solid turf when it was over.

“I’ve never been a part of a game so crazy in my life,” he said.

After he thaws out, the Ravens, 9 1/2-point underdogs for this one, will get ready for a game at either New England or Houston, who meet Sunday



Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Torrey Smith (82) catches a pass for a touchdown against Denver Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey in the second quarter of an AFC divisional playoff NFL football game, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, in Denver.

for the other spot in the AFC title game.

This game, the longest since the Browns beat the New York Jets 23-20 in 1987, was an all-timer - up there with San Diego’s 41-38 double-overtime victory over Miami when it comes to drama, momentum shifts and the unexpected. But Flacco’s throw might best be bookended next to one made by Dallas quarterback Roger Staubach, who famously brought the term “Hail Mary” to football after his game-winning toss to Drew Pearson beat Minnesota in the 1975 playoffs.

Staubach was near midfield when he threw his.

Flacco, who finished with 331 yards and three scores, was standing at the 25 for his throw, buying time in the pocket when he saw Jones sprinting down the right sideline into double coverage.

Defensive back Tony Carter slowed up and let Jones streak by him. Instead of staying step for step with Jones, safety Rahim Moore tried to leap and knock down the ball. Flacco, who throws the high, deep ball as well as anyone, got it over Moore’s head and into Jones’ hands.

“I started to step up in the pocket and I kept my eye on the safety’s depth at that point,” Flacco said. “Just felt I had a shot of maybe getting over him. At that point in the game, you don’t have any timeouts, when you’ve got to go a pretty decent length you’ve got to start taking shots at some point. It happened to work out.”

Jones caught it and pranced into the end zone, blowing kisses toward the crowd.

“I was kissing to God. I was thanking the Lord,” Jones said. “I don’t disbelieve in myself. I’ve been believing in myself since I was born. Never no disbelief.”

Moore was on the verge of tears after the game.

“The loss, it was my fault,” Moore said. “I got a little too happy. It was pathetic. My fault. Next time I’ll make that play.”

The teams were tied at 14 after the first quarter, 21 at half-time, 28 after three quarters and at 35-35 after regulation.

They punted three times to start overtime, the last of them setting up Denver on its 7-yard line.

Manning was moving the Broncos along slowly and steadily. But on second-and-6

from the 38, he rolled to his right, stopped, planted and threw across the field toward Stokley at the right hash mark. Graham stepped in front of the receiver for the interception. The Ravens D-back also had a first-quarter interception, which he returned 39 yards for a touchdown and a 14-7 lead.

On many days, the two interceptions would have made him the star of the game. On this day—he was just another player making big plays for Baltimore. Even he was amazed at the Flacco-Jones touchdown.

“It was one of those miraculous plays,” Graham said. “I don’t think it’ll ever be forgotten.”

The wind chill at kickoff was 2 degrees, and Manning, wearing an orange-and-gray glove to get more feel in the icy weather, fell to 0-4 lifetime in playoff games when the temperature is 40 or less. He finished 28 for 43 for 290 yards and accounted for all three Denver turnovers—the two picks and a lost fumble that set up the touchdown that tied the game at 28 late in the third quarter.

Combined, the mistakes nullified a record-setting day for returner Trindon Holliday, who

returned a punt 90 yards for a touchdown and a kickoff 104 yards for another score. Both were playoff records for longest returns, as was the 248 total return yards he had.

This was, more or less, the unthinkable for the Broncos, who came in on an 11-game winning streak and the odds-on favorite, at 3-1, to win the Super Bowl - in Manning’s hometown of New Orleans, no less.

Instead, this loss goes down with the most devastating in Denver history. Right there with the 30-27 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars on Jan. 4, 1997 —another year when Denver looked very much like Super Bowl material.

“Certainly we did a lot of good things this season, but as of right now, it’s hard to think about anything besides the loss tonight,” Manning said.

Baltimore, meanwhile, will get ready for its second straight trip to the AFC title game.

49ers 45, Packers 31

In San Francisco, the unproven kid thoroughly beat the former Super Bowl champion and reigning

ing MVP.

With a strong arm that allowed him to pick the Packers apart from the pocket and speedy legs that helped him break free for big gains, Colin Kaepernick did a little bit of everything in a record-setting, sensational playoff debut - and Aaron Rodgers just couldn’t keep up.

Kaepernick passed for 263 yards and ran the San Francisco 49ers right back to the NFC championship game with a 45-31 win over Green Bay in an NFC divisional game Saturday night.

“It feels good. We’re one step closer to where we want to be,” Kaepernick said. “I feel like I had a lot to prove. A lot of people doubted my ability to lead this team.”

And what a playoff debut it was by the second-year pro making just his eighth NFL start. No doubt Jim Harbaugh’s big midseason gamble switching quarterbacks now.

Rodgers never got in sync for the Packers (12-6), finishing 26 of 39 for 257 yards with two touchdowns.

Kaepernick sets QB playoff rushing record

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Colin Kaepernick has set an NFL record for rushing yards by a quarterback in a playoff game.

Kaepernick broke Michael Vick’s mark of 119 yards with a 56-yard keeper on an option play in the third quarter of Saturday night’s playoff game against Green Bay. The run gave Kaepernick 163 yards on 12 carries, setting a 49ers franchise record for the postseason. Vick set his record for Atlanta in a 47-17 win over St. Louis on Jan. 15, 2005.

Kaepernick earlier scored on a 20-yard run and also threw two touchdown passes in the first half. He joined Chicago’s Jay Cutler and Cleveland’s Otto Graham as the only players to throw two TD passes and run for two TDs in a playoff game. Graham did it twice.

“It feels good. We’re one step closer to where we want to be,” Kaepernick said. “I feel like I had a lot to prove. A lot of people doubted my ability to lead this team.”

And what a playoff debut it was by the second-year pro making just his eighth NFL start. No doubt Jim Harbaugh’s big midseason gamble switching quarterbacks now.

Aaron Rodgers never got in sync for the Packers (12-6), finishing 26 of 39 for 257 yards with two touchdowns.

Kaepernick ran for scores of 20 and 56 yards on the way to topping the rushing mark

of 119 yards set by Michael Vick in 2005 against St. Louis. Crabtree caught TD passes of 12 and 20 yards in the second quarter and wound up with nine receptions and 119 yards for the Niners (12-4-1) in the NFC divisional matchup.

Kaepernick, sporting a burgundy beanie partially covering his head, was greeted at his locker after the game by former 49ers quarterback John Brodie.

San Francisco had 579 total yards with 323 on the ground, scoring its third-most points in the franchise’s storied playoff history.

“Our offensive line did an amazing job today,” Kaepernick said. “They shut everybody down inside. Our receivers, our tight ends, blocked great outside, and our running backs were running hard, so it made it easier on me.”

Frank Gore and Anthony Dixon each added 2-yard touchdown runs in the fourth quarter for the No. 2 seed NFC West champions, slim favorites on their home field in a rematch of Week 1. They added to their memorable night by setting a franchise postseason record for yards rushing, 119 of those by Gore to complement Kaepernick.

Next up for the Niners: a game on Jan. 20 for a spot in the Super Bowl, against the winner of Sunday’s game between the Seattle Seahawks and Falcons at Atlanta.

Chalmers hits 10 3-pointers as Heat rout Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Mario Chalmers had career highs with 10 3-pointers and 34 points to lead the Miami Heat to a 128-99 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Saturday night.

LeBron James had 20 points, seven assists, five steals and two blocks for the Heat, who had a season-high point total. Miami, which hadn't topped 100 points in its previous four games, got a needed bounce-back win after losing two straight and five of eight since Dec. 26.

Chris Bosh had 16 points, Mike Miller 12 and Dwyane Wade 11 for Miami, which shot 56 percent and went 17 for 37 from beyond the arc. Chalmers tied Brian Shaw's franchise record for 3s and connected on 10-of-13 overall in breaking the previous record of nine 3s at Sleep Train Arena.

Miami led by 22 points at the half and outscored the Kings 37-29 in the third quarter in cruising to the lopsided victory.

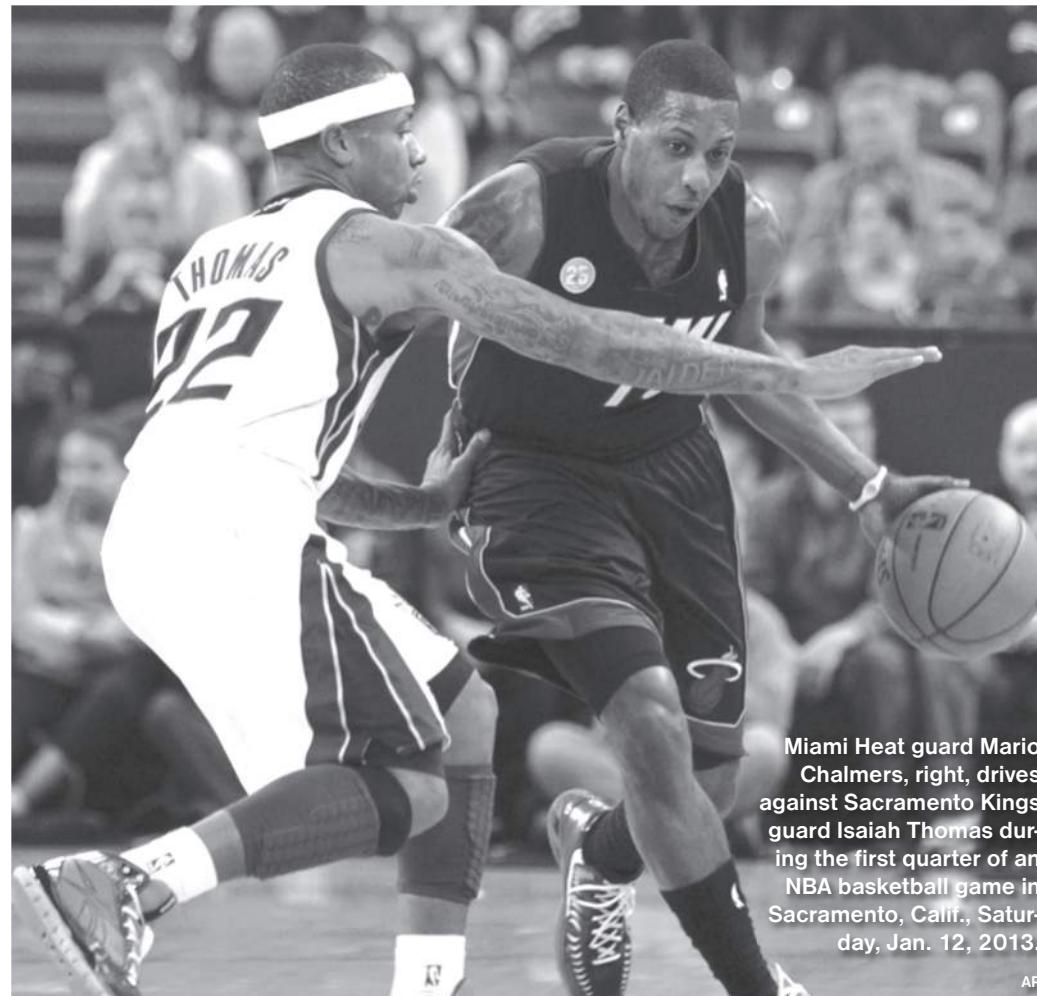
Isaiah Thomas made six 3-pointers and scored a career-high 34 points for the Kings, who dropped their fourth straight game. DeMarcus Cousins had 11 points and eight rebounds, and James Johnson also scored 11 points.

The Heat have struggled on the road this season and had lost four of five entering the game. But Sacramento has been a successful road venue for the Heat, who have won seven of their last eight visits and evened their road record this year to 8-8.

Magic 104, Clippers 101

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick gave Orlando its first lead on a 3-pointer with 42 seconds left, Arron Afflalo tied his season high with 30 points, and the Magic beat the Los Angeles Clippers 104-101 on Saturday to snap a 10-game skid.

The loss ended the Clippers' franchise-record 13-game, home-winning streak and provided them with a scare when All-Star guard



Miami Heat guard Mario Chalmers, right, drives against Sacramento Kings guard Isaiah Thomas during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013.

under .500 for the first time in 13 years, beat a team with a winning record for just the fourth time this season. They did it soundly, too, taking their first 30-point lead of the season and coasting through the fourth quarter.

Suns 97, Bulls 81

In Chicago, Luis Scola scored 22 points to help the Phoenix Suns beat the Chicago Bulls 97-81 Saturday night, snapping a five-game losing streak.

Michael Beasley added 20 points for Phoenix, which had lost 12 straight on the road and got its first win away from home since beating Cleveland on Nov. 27.

The Suns got the 2,000th win in franchise history, accomplishing the feat in their 3,599th game to become the fourth-fastest team to the reach the milestone.

Carlos Boozer had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Joakin Noah added 10 points and 13 boards for Chicago, which continued its inconsistent play at home with its fourth loss in the last six.

Maverick 104, Grizzlies 83

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki is coming along gradually. Maybe the Dallas Mavericks are, too.

Nowitzki scored 17 points and was one of three Dallas starters who didn't miss from 3-point range, and Shawn Marion had a season-high 20 to lead the Mavericks to consecutive wins for the first time in a month with a 104-83 victory against the Memphis Grizzlies on Saturday night.

The Mavericks, three days removed from dropping 10 games

Chris Paul went down holding his right knee with 54 seconds to go. Paul returned after a timeout and hit a 15-footer to draw his team within one with 33 seconds left.

But the Clippers turned the ball over on Jamal Crawford's offensive foul. Josh McRoberts found Nikola Vucevic open under the basket, and Vucevic dunked to extend Orlando's lead to 104-101 with 8 seconds left.

After a timeout, Crawford missed a 3-pointer as time expired.

Wizards 93, Hawks 83

In Washington, John Wall gave his teammates a lift with 14 points and four assists in his first game of the season, and the worst-in-NBA Wizards have their first winning streak.

Wall's playing time will be limited as he returns from a knee injury, but he appeared to have his old speed and explo-

siveness back while playing seven minutes in the first half and 15 in the second half.

No. 3 overall pick Bradley Beal, getting to play with Wall for the first time, scored 16 points for the Wizards, who are 6-28 but have strung together two wins in a row following their upset of Oklahoma City on Monday.

Sixers 107, Rockets 100

In Philadelphia, Jrue Holiday scored 30 points, Thaddeus Young had 18 points and 12 rebounds and the 76ers snapped a five-game losing streak.

Jason Richardson scored 16 points for the Sixers, who finally return home for a lengthy stint as they try to play their way back into the Eastern Conference playoff race. The Sixers opened a stretch of 12 home games in the next 13 and hope they can start to offset a miserable 2-6 road trip

that stretched over the new year.

James Harden led the Rockets with 29 points and Chandler Parsons had 23. Jeremy Lin missed 11 of 13 shots for seven points.

Jazz 90, Pistons 87

In Michigan, Al Jefferson scored 10 of his 20 points in the third quarter, and Utah rallied for the win.

Detroit's Brandon Knight missed a 3-pointer in the final seconds that would have tied the game after the Pistons trailed by 13 points with 3:26 left.

Jefferson helped the Jazz out-score Detroit 25-11 in the third, powering them to their first lead after trailing by as many as 15 points.

Utah also put together a 17-3 run after Austin Daye's 3-pointer with 8:38 left gave the Pistons the lead for the last time.

Pacers 96, Bobcats 88

In Indianapolis, George Hill scored

and once away, and play once at home and twice on the road against the other five teams.

It took another lengthy negotiation to end the four-month lockout. The sides worked on the MOU all week, after a tentative deal was reached last Sunday morning—the 113th day of the lockout—and needed all day Saturday to finish it.

The announcement that the deal was signed came several hours after the union easily ratified the tentative agreement that was reached after an all-night, 16-hour bargaining session last weekend.

The more than 700 union members had a 36-hour window from Thursday night until Saturday morning to vote electronically. The NHL board of governors unanimously approved the deal on Wednesday.

Outside the division, a team

will face five clubs twice at home

and once away, and play once at home and twice on the road against the other five teams.

While this negotiation was long, the sides were able to rescue at least part of the season. The NHL also played a 48-game campaign following a lockout in the 1994-95 season.

The 2004-05 was completely canceled because of a lockout. This one forced the cancellation of 510 regular-season games, the Winter Classic and the All-Star game.

No preseason games will be played in the seven days before the regular season gets under way.

Henley, Langley tied for Sony Open lead

HONOLULU (AP)—Scott Langley and Russell Henley joked around as if they were a couple of rookies fresh out of college.

They sure don't play like rookies.

After they set the Sony Open scoring record at 17-under 193 to share the lead, Henley walked into a news conference Saturday evening and realized Langley, who moments earlier had been sitting in the same chair, left behind his PGA Tour credentials and sunglasses.

Langley came back into the room—turns out he forgot his golf clubs, too—and Henley waved the credentials and called out to him, "What a rookie."

Put them on the golf course, though, and they look awfully tough to beat.

Langley relied on his stinger 3-wood on the fast fairways of Waialae and another solid round putting for a 5-under 65.

Henley took a suspect swing from the range and made it work on the course, turning a so-so round into a 67 by keeping bogeys off his card for the second straight day. He

smashed a high draw on the par-5 18th over the bunker and just through the fairway, leading to a two-putt birdie that allowed him to catch Langley.

They had a three-shot lead over Tim Clark, who is finally feeling healthy again.

"I'm sure they won't be too intimidated," Clark said. "That's going to be fun to see them play. There's all these

young guys coming out these days, and they're ready to go right from the start. So it's going to be a fun battle."

Langley and Henley started the Sony Open playing in the same group, not unusual because rookies are often put at the back end of the draw. They will play together Sunday for the fourth straight day, this time with a lot more at stake.

A chance to become the first rookie to win his PGA Tour debut since Garrett Willis in the 2001 Tucson.

A two-year exemption on tour.

And the sweet reward of an invitation to the Masters, rare for a rookie.

"A month ago I was at orientation, and Scott just done with Q-school, and I gave him a ride to the airport," Henley said. "We had lunch and I was telling him how awesome it was I was on the PGA Tour. This is kind like a dream. It's weird. It's like I'm not awake. Very weird."

Perhaps reality will set in Sunday, though there has been no evidence of that for three days—not the way these guys putt.

"The Vegas odds on me winning were probably not very good," said Langley, not a betting man himself. "I hope somebody bet on me and I make him a lot of money."

Langley made seven birdies to offset a pair of bogeys. Henley has been steadier, and he carries a streak of 43 holes without a bogey into the final round.

NHL lockout ends, training camps set to open

NEW YORK (AP)—NHL hockey is finally back, and this time it's official.

Nearly one week after a tentative labor deal was agreed to by the league and its players, the sides agreed to a required memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Saturday night that truly makes the lockout a thing of the past.

Training camps will open on Sunday, and a 48-game regular season will begin next Saturday. The signing of the MOU also paved the way for the NHL to release the long-awaited revised schedule.

Twenty-six of the 30 teams will play on opening day. All games during the season will be played within the two respective conferences.

In all, 720 games will be

played over a 99-day regular season. There will be at least one game on each day of the season, that will end on April 27. Again, 26 of 30 teams will be in action that day.

The playoffs will begin on April 30. The latest the Stanley Cup finals will end is June 28.

Teams will play 18 games

within their division: four games (two home and two away) against two of the teams in the division, five games (three home and two away) against another team in the division, and five games (two home and three away) against the remaining divisional opponent.

To complete the 720-game schedule, clubs will play three games against each of the 10 remaining non-divisional opponents in their conference.

Outside the division, a team

will face five clubs twice at home

and once away, and play once at home and twice on the road against the other five teams.

It took another lengthy negotiation to end the four-month lockout. The sides worked on the MOU all week, after a tentative deal was reached last Sunday morning—the 113th day of the lockout—and needed all day Saturday to finish it.

The announcement that the deal was signed came several hours after the union easily ratified the tentative agreement that was reached after an all-night, 16-hour bargaining session last weekend.

The more than 700 union members had a 36-hour window from Thursday night until Saturday morning to vote electronically. The NHL board of governors unanimously approved the deal on Wednesday.

No preseason games will be played in the seven days before the regular season gets under way.

KB Market, Mobil prevail in QQ Cup

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



KB/ABCD II Market and Mobil came out triumphant in their respective games in the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

KB Market outlasted KFC/Taco Bell, 82-74, in the late feature, while Mobil held off OCM Corporation, 71-62, in the first match of the night. Mobil and KB Market now hold similar 2-1 records for second place behind the undefeated NMC/Lions Club Proa (2-0) and Blue Haus (2-0), while OCM (0-3) and KFC/Taco Bell (0-3) are bringing up the rear.

Bernard Aquino and John Acosta each drained a three-

pointer late in the first period to give KB Market an 18-15 favor early on and they jumped out to a healthy 39-29 margin at half-time with a mixed bag containing a handful of donors.

Aquino's 10 points led KB Market in the first half and their offense stalled in the third quarter with him on the bench, allowing KFC/Taco Bell to mount a comeback.

Jack Aranda and Nevin Salem ignited a nice rally that put KFC/Taco Bell within one possession, 52-55, heading into crunch time.

KFC/Taco Bell hung around for half of the final 10 minutes, but KB Market went big against its youthful rivals and dominated the boards late in the game to secure the win. Aquino and Rolly Paraiso went on to combine for 17 points in the clutch to bring

home the victory.

In the curtain raiser, Mobil assumed control in the opening canto, 22-19, thanks largely to Elgene Mangali's late 8-point string.

Syl Teregeyo tallied 8 points, too, in the second quarter to help keep OCM hot in pursuit at intermission, 33-34. Mangali and Marvin Rabauliman hooked up for 19 points to carry the torch for Mobil in the first half.

After the pause, OCM lingered through the third quarter, 51-55, but Mobil's half court attack continued to reap rewards and the veteran group sunk four free throws to preserve the win.

Jun Estolas topped the box score with 17 points, while OCM's Ben Lisua turned in a team-high 13 on the short end.

QQ Cup action continues tonight with Proa taking on Blue Haus at 6:30pm and KB Market

facing Mobil at 8pm.

First Game

Mobil 71 – Estolas 17, Mangali 14, Rabauliman 14, Rulukid 12, De Guzman 10, Sharry 2.

OCM Corp. 62 – Lisua 13, Lauron 12, Teregeyo 10, Camacho 8, Clayton 6, Babauta 5, Barrios 4, Diaz 4

Scoring by quarters: 22-19, 34-33, 55-51, 71-62.

Second Game

KB/ABCD II Market 82 – Paraiso 19, De Dios 16, Aquino 14, Fitial 14, Standish 6, Wesley 4, Acosta 3, Norita 2, Umali 2.

KFC/Taco Bell 74 – Ne. Salem 12, De Guzman 11, Francisco 9, Aranda 9, Bernardo 8, Joyner 8, Palacios 7, Ni. Salem 4, Alegre 3, Fernando 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-15, 39-29, 55-52, 82-74.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

KB/ABCD II Market's Marlon De Dios converts a fastbreak layup against KFC/Taco Bell's Nevin Salem during their game in the QQ Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

PIC Duck Race set for Feb. 9

Pacific Islands Club Saipan will be hosting the 2013 Duck Race for Cancer on Feb. 9.

PIC staff will be out selling ducks to the community to try and raise funds for this worthy cause. In addition to this year's annual duck race set at 6:30pm, PIC will also have the Corporate Duck Race to this year's event. Dozens of companies are invited to participate, but only the first 24 to confirm will be granted slots into the PIC Race

TWIN

From Page 28

Allen Yu led Eucon, scoring 13 points in the first half, and though he received some support in the second quarter, MHS' bench helped build a stout 38-23 margin at midpoint. Dela Rosa tacked on 7 more markers for 15 points in first-half surge, while John Darag chipped in 6.

Eucon briefly postured a comeback in the third quarter, but MHS reestablished control in the closing minutes, 57-39, with Dela Rosa turning in an

honorable effort on both ends of the floor. He added 3 more points in the fourth quarter for a team-high 26 before taking a seat, while Yu scrambled for 34 points on the short end.

In the junior varsity match, Ethan Manalili and Daniel Ogunmoro paced MHS with 6 points apiece to help create a promising 30-11 favor in the first frame.

Agape was then held to one basket in the second quarter, as MHS pressed on at the break, 39-13.

Sherwin Gaspar came off the bench for MHS in the third

quarter and strung up 7 points to put the game out of Agape's reach, heading into the final period.

Ogunmoro's 13 points led three MHS teammates in double figures, while Agape's Zeyue Lin turned in a team-high 11.

Meanwhile, the MISO caging continues today with Agape getting a chance for redemption against the debut Saipan Southern High School at 4pm. In the 5:45pm varsity game, the Rays will take on Eucon.

Junior Varsity
MHS 67 – Ogunmoro 13, G.

De Guzman 11, Yap 10, Ano 10, Gaspar 9, Dai 7, Cayadong 5, Benavente 2.

Agape 27 – Lin 11, M.E. Li 4, Yang 4, Puno 2, Guo 2, Huang 2, M.Z. Li 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-11, 39-13, 57-23, 67-27.

Varsity

MHS 74 – Dela Rosa 26, Darag 18, Apolinario 8, Macahito 8, Aguilar 4, Zapanta 4, Cristobal 2, Mancao 2.

Eucon 58 – Yu 34, Zhou 8, Li 6, Wang 6, Ren 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-10, 38-23, 57-39, 74-58.

Docomo last week, 42-56.

First Game

Docomo Pacific 77 – Barbo 22, Sacramento 18, Sison 11, Cruz 10, Sanciangco 6, Montes 6, Sablan 4.

QQ Rent A Car 75 – Catalla 26, Hambros 20, Taylor 14, Badong 9, Abuan 6.

Scoring by quarters: 14-15, 31-23, 52-48, 77-75.

Second Game

Cell Pro/Insider 73 – De Leon 16, Iglesias 15, Dayrit 13, Rivera 8, Loste 7, Montano 7.

Chinatown Kings 64 – Teregeyo 16, Quizon 14, Zapanta 13, Basa 12, Acosta 6, Solito 1.

Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 37-31, 51-43, 73-64. (*Saipan Tribune*)

DOCOMO

From Page 28

8 straight markers at one point in the fourth canto, Sacramento also hit back-to-back baskets in the homestretch, and Montes canned two pressure packed free throws, which were also the last two points of Docomo.

Both Docomo and QQ missed key players in the opening game last week and neither team managed to control the match right at the buzzer with the latter ahead by only a hair, 15-14.

Docomo then picked up its scoring a bit in the second, while QQ was held to 8 points, allowing the former to take a 31-23 halftime lead. Darwin Barbo carried the cudgels for

Docomo in the first half with his 14 points, while Rodney Catalla paced QQ with his 11 markers.

Barbo was then limited to two field goals in the third, while Catalla continued to lead QQ, adding 10 more points to slice Docomo's lead to four, 48-52.

Barbo opened the fourth with 3 straight points, but became a non-factor in the ensuing plays. Fortunately for Docomo, Cruz and Sacramento stepped up to fill the void with the latter nailing 10 of his 18 markers in the pivotal fourth. QQ fell short in overhauling Docomo's lead in the final canto, as Catalla was held to 5 points.

In the second game, Cell Pro/Insider was consistent with its offense from the first to the fourth quarter to beat the Chinatown Kings stayed afloat in the second half behind behind Syl Teregeyo, Paul Quizon, and Preston Basa, but failed to make headway and went on to drop their third game. The Chinatown Kings won their opener against Pacific Stars/Gualo and were behind in their rained-out match against

Docomo last week, 42-56.

First Game

Docomo Pacific 77 – Barbo 22, Sacramento 18, Sison 11, Cruz 10, Sanciangco 6, Montes 6, Sablan 4.

QQ Rent A Car 75 – Catalla 26, Hambros 20, Taylor 14, Badong 9, Abuan 6.

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Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 37-31, 51-43, 73-64. (*Saipan Tribune*)

CNMI

From Page 28

over Pacific Oceania teammate and American Samoa's Anastasia Tapuso, 6-3, 6-1, and Australia's Kayla Donovan, 6-0, (*Saipan Tribune*)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	13	.639	–
Brooklyn	21	15	.583	2
Boston	19	17	.528	4
Philadelphia	16	22	.421	8
Toronto	14	22	.389	9

Southeast Division

Miami	24	11	.686	–
Atlanta	21	15	.583	3½
Orlando	13	23	.361	11½
Charlotte	9	27	.250	15½
Washington	6	28	.176	17½

Central Division

Indiana	23	14	.622	–
Chicago	20	15	.571	2
Milwaukee	18	17	.514	4
Detroit	14	24	.368	9½
Cleveland	9	29	.237	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	28	11	.718	–
Memphis	24	11	.686	2
Houston	21	17	.553	6½
Dallas	15	23	.395	12½
New Orleans	11	25	.306	15½

Northwest Division

Weekend Sports

The various basketball leagues on Saipan brought back life to the sports community after things slowed down due to the holiday break.

At the Marianas High School Gymnasium, the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League kicked off with Kagman High School surviving Mt. Carmel School in overtime.

Also starting its 2013 season was the QQ Rent A Car Basketball League at the Garapan Bas-

Basketball restores action

ketball Court with NMC Proa stunning defending champion Mobil Smiles and Blue Haus also winning its opener against KFC/Taco Bell.

The 3rd Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League is also being played at the Garapan court with San Antonio and Hibiscus notching separate wins before the caging suspended the remaining games and moved

them to next month due to scheduling problems.

While the Blue Haus caging is postponed, the Rollers Basketball Club's 2012 Holiday Hoops wrapped up last week with U13's Evolution, U15's KFC/Taco Bell, and U21's Blazers clinching championship trophies. Evolution outlasted the Super Stars in the U13 finals, 22-17; KFC/Taco Bell downed

Pogi in the U15, 42-33; and the Blazers prevailed over Rollers in the U21, 57-53.

Over at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, games in Division A of the 2012 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League with SSFM posting three straight wins to take the lead in the seven-team field.

Meanwhile, in bowling M.J. Aldan and Diana Camacho won

the championship in Saipan Bowling Association's season-ending tournament. Aldan was named Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes after beating two other youth keglers, while Camacho was crowned Budweiser Queen of the Lanes after defeating 10 other participants.

In tennis, Tammy Ackerman, Mikayla Lopez, and Negahr Rastguy completed their second and last tournament in Australia last week after participating in the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria. (*Saipan Tribune*)



KFC/Taco Bell's Dianne Arnold poses for a photo with the team after winning the Best Muse award during the opening of the QQ caging last week at the Garapan Basketball League.



Northern Marianas College/Lions Club Proa players pose for a photo after winning the Best Uniform award during the opening of the QQ caging last week at the Garapan Basketball League.



Pogi and KFC/Taco Bell players scramble for the loose ball during their U15 title game in the Rollers Basketball Club's holiday caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Akira Yamanaka of J. League's Ehime FC (in red uniform) gives pointers to U12 players during a clinic last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



SSFM's Leo Galarse goes up for a layup during their game against Docomo in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



Akira Yamanaka of J. League's Ehime FC, center, gives instructions to coaches Fradel Sedillo, left, and Jersh Angeles during a clinic last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Saipan Tribune Sports



28 MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Twin victories for MHS Dolphins

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REPORTER

Marianas High School earned a pair of convincing wins in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MISO The Dolphins' varsity team overwhelmed Eucon International School, 74-58, while their junior crew routed Agape Christian School, 67-27.

Erick Dela Rosa and Franklin Macahito provided stability for MHS from the tip in the varsity game, as they combined for 14 points and lifted the Dolphins to an 18-10 lead in the opening period.

See TWIN on Page 26

CNMI jr. players make q'finals of Aussie tourney

Australian Open Tammy Ackerman, Negahr Rastguyi, and Mikayla Lopez capped their campaign in the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships with a quarterfinals appearance in their respective singles events.

Both Ackerman and Rastguyi played in the U14 singles over the weekend and marched into the Round of 8 at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria, Australia. Ackerman was at the upper half of the 26-player field and won her first round match over Kellie Bairstow, 6-0, 6-0. The Fiji-based CNMI player then stunned the No. 6 seed Stephanie Pang in straight sets, 6-1, 6-1, to advance to the quarterfinals.

The 13-year-old Ackerman faced another seeded foe in the Round of 8 when she collided against fourth-ranked Samantha Nyika, who eventually ended the former's run with a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 triumph.

Rastguyi was on the lower half of the U14 singles draw and also notched two wins to make it to the quarterfinals.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School's Erick Dela Rosa slashes through the post against Eucon International School defenders during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Friday at MHS Gymnasium.



The CNMI's Tammy Ackerman, seen here going for a forehand in a tournament in Thailand last year, competed in her second event in Australia last week.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

She swept Nada Milenovic in the first round, 6-1, 6-0, and nailed another two-set win over the third-ranked Kate Vaughan, 7-6, 6-1, before bowing to No. 8 seed Chorlida Kang in the quarterfinals, 7-6, 6-3.

Despite their quarterfinal losses, Ackerman and Rastguyi completed their stint in the Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships on a winning note. Ackerman finished fifth place overall after posting two victories in the consolation bracket. She prevailed over Yazlyn Way and then cruised past Bonnie Usher, 6-1, 6-0, to take the No. 5 spot. Rastguyi, who recovered quickly from a sore toe, finished at No. 7, following a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Way.

In the girls U16, Lopez also topped her consolation draw and ended up in fifth place out of 16 players. She started her bid with a straight set win versus Micaela McKimmie, 6-2, 6-0, before losing to third-ranked Maddison Brackenreg, 6-4, 6-0, in the quarterfinals. The CNMI bet went on to play in the battle for fifth to eighth place and won

See CNMI on Page 26

Lady Eagles, Knights still perfect

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy's Lady Eagles and the Lady Knights of Mount Carmel School remained unbeaten in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League.

The Lady Eagles held strong against the Marianas Baptist Academy Stormz, 25-12, 25-11, 15-11, in last Tuesday's pairing at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, and then outlasted the MHS Blue Dolphins, 25-15, 25-11, 15-9, last Thursday to notch

See LADY on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Grace Christian Academy's Zena Demapan sends over a spike to Marianas High School's Blue Lady Dolphins during their game in the MISO volleyball league last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

Docomo, Cell Pro get first win



Docomo Pacific and Cell/Pro Insider broke into the win column of the 2012 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after beating separate foes last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Docomo played in the curtain



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Docomo's Rodney Sacramento pulls up for a jumper against SSFM's Jun Pantaleon during their game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.